



05-001-08330

December 31, 1987

Interoffice Memo

To: Robert, Mac, Jim, and Bill.  
From: Jim Kenney.

Re: Treater fire in Adams County, Full House field, 1S-63W.

Sequence of Events:

JENNIFER At approximately 1:30 pm on December 30 the treater serving the ~~Caren~~ #1, NE SW 26-1S-63W, owned by Paul Page (Prospect Valley), caught fire. Judging from the Gas Meter Chart, which indicated a significant and sudden jump from zero line pressure to an undeterminable pressure, it would appear as if the wellhead was opened. There is a one inch diameter hole in the treater inlet flowline some two feet from the firewall where the fire originated. I can only speculate that the wellhead was opened and because of excessive pressure or metal fatigue the flowline burst and caught fire. Of course none of this has been substantiated.

At 2:12 pm Jan Kalcevic called the Bennet Fire Department, which responded to the call by having men and equipment at wellsite by 2:37 pm. A few minutes earlier, at 2:34 pm, a Union Pacific Resources hand spotted the fire from the roadside and proceeded to shut-in the wellhead.

By 4:10 pm the fire had been put out and the Bennet Fire Department left the location at 4:36 pm.

The fire destroyed a sheet metal shed, which housed the treater system, and damaged all treaters (see attached diagram).

Discussion:

Without knowing how the fire was started it is impossible to say how it might have been prevented. One aspect that is clear is the unsafe manner in which the tank battery facility was constructed. Please look at the attached Facility Diagram, and in particular the distances between treaters, skim pit, and stock tanks.

There is inadequate spacing between facility sub-systems, and in my opinion it was luck that the stock tanks did not catch fire.

As part of my investigation I stopped at the Bennet Fire Station and talked with 'Debbie'. One subject which came up was the number of treater fires which occurred this year within Bennet's Fire District. There have been eight. We were notified of this fire only because the Fire Dept. was unable to locate the operator.

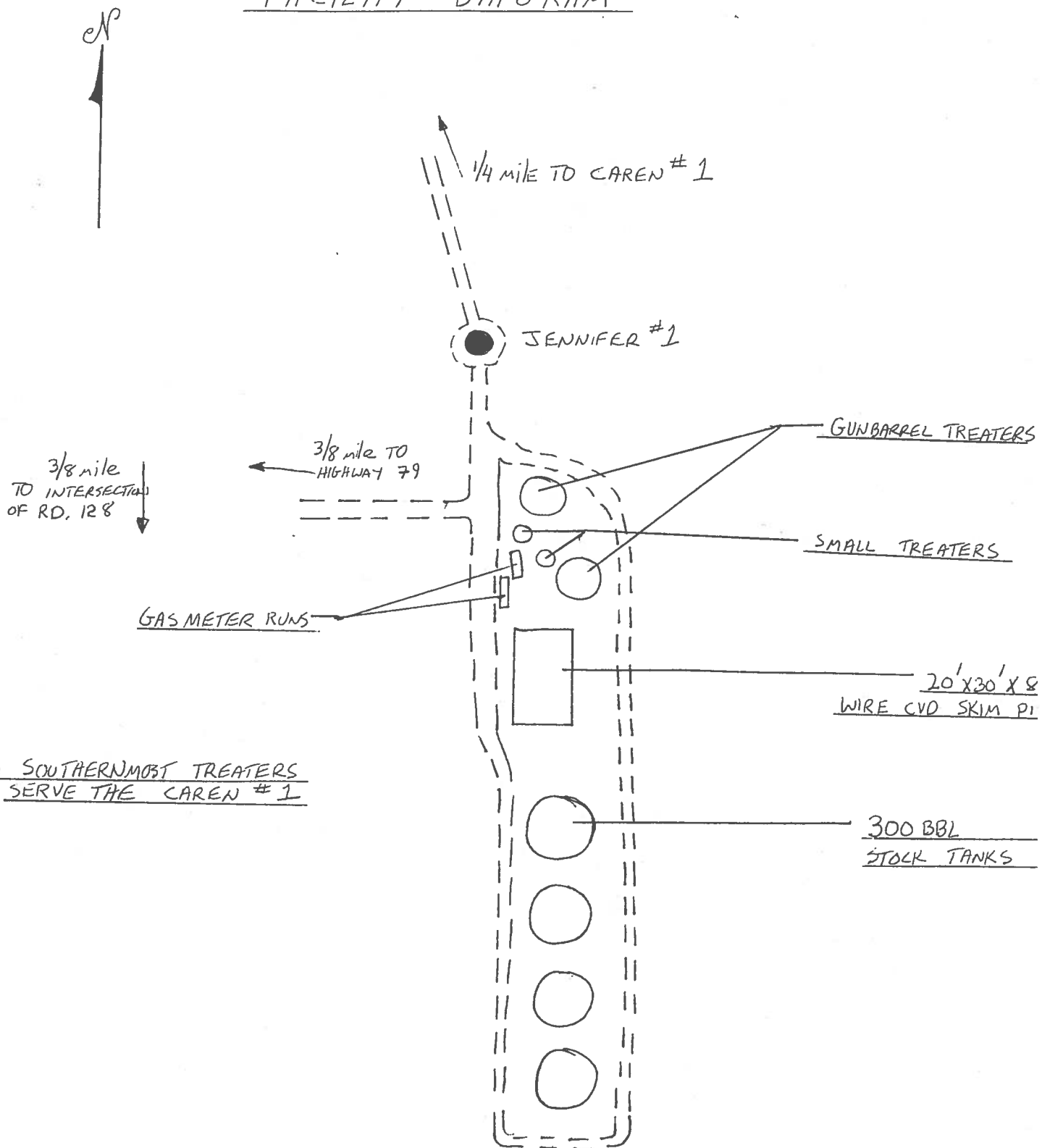
Recommendations:

Our Rules and Regulations requiring wellhead signs with emergency phone numbers, as well as guidelines for facility construction, are clearly justified.

To enhance the effectiveness of those signs I recommend we consider requiring all signs to be posted at either lease road entrances or a distance of 30 feet from wellhead or facility. Most signs in my area are either at the wellhead, the treater, or the stock tanks. If there is a fire which destroys the sign, what good did the sign do?

Doc 0046J

# FACILITY DIAGRAM



NOTE: SOUTHERNMOST TREATERS  
SERVE THE CAREN #1

LOCATION: NE SW 26-15-63W

TANK I.D. #: 15-63-K-26

B.C. GRIFFIN; CAREN #1

PROSPECT VALLEY; JENNIFER #1

WELLHEAD TO TREATER ~ 150'

TREATER TO TREATER ~ 20'

TREATER TO SKIM PIT ~ 10'

SKIM PIT TO STOCK TANKS ~ 30'