

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM
VENTURE CHEMICALS!

CHRISTMAS BY THE NUMBERS

A 1997 Gallup poll states **29 %** of Americans found the Christmas holidays more stressful than enjoyable.

According to Gale Research, the average American household wraps **30** Christmas gifts each year.

The National Christmas Tree Association found Americans buy **37.1 million** real Christmas trees each year; **25 %** of them are from the nation's **5,000** choose-and-cut farms.

Visa cards alone are used an average of **5,340** times every minute in the United States during the Christmas buying season.

During the Christmas/Hanukkah season, more than **1.76 billion** candy canes will be made.

Nearly **one in four** people said they have more headaches during the Christmas season than any other time of the year.

According to a 1995 survey, **7 out of 10** British dogs get Christmas gifts from their dotting owners.

STUCK PIPE AS A RESULT OF DIFFERENTIAL STICKING

Operators face many problems during the course of drilling oil and gas wells. One of the most costly is stuck pipe. The potential causes of stuck pipe are many, but one of the biggest culprits is differential pressure. Sticking because of differential pressure can be reduced or eliminated with the use of an effective seepage loss additive.

Differential pressure sticking is generally characterized by (1) pipe sticking after being motionless for a period of time; (2) mud still circulating; and/or (3) pipe not rotating or moving up and down.

All areas of drilling are susceptible to problems with differential sticking. However, the bulk of the problems occur in deep wells with high density muds and in long, open sections of low pressure depleted sands.

Keeping several factors in mind, the chances of differential sticking can be significantly reduced: use of the lowest mud weight possible, maintenance of low filtration rates, constant movement of drill pipe, use of liquid lubricants and use of seepage loss additives to assist in sealing the formation.

Stuck pipe caused by key seating, debris in hole, undergauge hole or cementitious materials will not be effected by seepage loss additives. However, effective use of seepage loss additives can reduce the chances of differential sticking of drill pipe.

Seepage loss is most often defined as small, continuous losses of drilling fluid that can result in differential sticking. Many factors have to be considered in the selection and successful use of such additives.

The Table on page 2 lists some of the more important factors.

Seepage additives can be added on a pre-treatment basis (continuous), slug treatment (periodic) or a combination of the two. Each situation is different and the best method should be chosen accordingly.

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FACTORS IN SELECTING A SEEPAGE LOSS ADDITIVE

Type mud system	Differential pressure
Temperature	Application techniques
Mud properties	Type equipment
Seat location and life	Removal techniques
Size and angle of hole	Formation permeability
Type formation	Downhole assemblies
Area geology	Type hole problem
Cost	Prior well histories

CREATIVE THINKING

An elderly man, harassed by the taunts of the neighborhood children, devised a scheme. He offered to pay them a dollar each if they would return on Tuesday and yell their insults again. The children did so eagerly and received the money. Then he told them he would pay only 25 cents on Wednesday. When they returned, insulted him again and collected their quarters he informed them that Thursday's rate would just be a penny. "Forget it," they said - and never taunted him again.

- Alfie Kohn, *Boston Globe*

PRODUCT CORNER

VEN-TROL™ 401

VEN-TROL™ 401 is a water base drilling mud additive primarily designed to stabilize shales and to prevent solids dispersion.

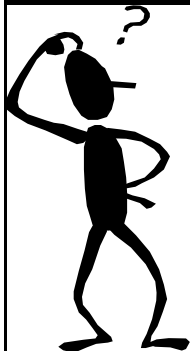
VEN-TROL™ 401 also has the ability to control seepage losses in low pressure unconsolidated sands and in fractured limestone/dolemite formations. It is particularly effective in helping to prevent fluid wetting of microfractured shale sections.

VEN-TROL™ 401 can also be used to:

- reduce problems associated with water sensitive shales;
- reduce balling of bits, stabilizers and collars in gumbo shales;
- reduce formation of mud rings;
- assist freeing stuck drill pipe when added to oil or water as a spotting fluid base;
- minimize differential sticking;
- reduce torque or drag.

For additional information on **VEN-TROL™ 401** or any other Venture Chemicals product, please contact us: **TEL:** (337) 232-1977 **U.S.:** 1-800-523-1933 or **FAX:** (337) 237-5340

THOUGHT TICKLERS



"Dear Lord, I've been asked, nay commanded, to thank Thee for the Christmas turkey before us... a turkey which was no doubt a lively, intelligent bird... a social being... capable of actual affection... nuzzling its young with almost human-like compassion. Anyway, it's dead and we're gonna eat it. Please give our respects to its family..."

- Berke Breathed, Bloom County Babylon

"I stopped believing in Santa Claus when I was six. Mother took me to see him in a department store and he asked for my autograph."

- Shirley Temple

"What I don't like about office Christmas parties is looking for a job the next day."

- Phyllis Diller

"Next to a circus there ain't nothing that packs up and tears out quicker than the Christmas spirit."

- Kin Hubbard

"I once bought my kids a pack of batteries for Christmas with a note on it saying, 'toys not included.'"

- Bernard Manning

IN EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST PLEASE CONTACT OUR DISTRIBUTOR:

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VENTURE CHEMICALS, INC. is: a basic manufacturer of specialty chemical products used in the petroleum and chemical industries. Marketing is specifically oriented toward the drilling and production industry and to select market segments of the chemical industry. VENEWS is published by Venture Chemicals, Inc., P. O. Box 53631, Lafayette, LA 70505, as a service to users of VCI products and services. All correspondence should be addressed to Shana Nicholson, Editor, VENEWS, at the above address.

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VEN-BRIEFS

YOU LEARN SOMETHING NEW EVERY DAY

Conventional wisdom says that the dissolved molecules simply spread further and further apart as the solution is diluted. But two chemists have found that some do the opposite: they clump together, first as clusters of molecules, then as bigger aggregates of the those clusters. The same logic employed in homeopathic medicine.

Homeopaths repeatedly dilute medications, some diluting to "infinity" until no molecules of the remedy remain. They believe that water holds a memory, or "imprint" of the reactive ingredient which is more potent than the ingredient itself.

The chemists, Kurt Geckeler and Shashadhar Samal, stumbled on the effect while investigating fullerenes at their lab in South Korea. They found that the football-shaped buckyball molecules kept forming untidy aggregates in solution. "When he diluted the solution, the size of the fullerene particles increased," says Geckeler. "It was completely counterintuitive."

- *Chemical Communications*, 2001

LIGHTEN UP!

People with a sunny outlook on life may be unconsciously beating heart disease, researchers at Johns Hopkins University Center for Health Promotion said in a statement.

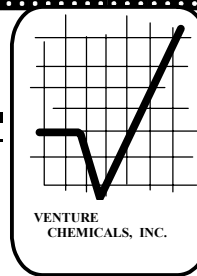
A study of nearly 600 people with a family history of heart disease were followed for between 5 and 12 years. During this time 70 people, or 11.9 percent, had heart "events" such as a heart attack, chest pain or death from heart disease.

The researchers found that those with an optimistic personality were half as likely to develop heart disease as their grumpier counterparts.

- www.yahoo.com

CHARTS - N - TA-

BLES



When you're faced with hole problems due to troublesome shales, seepage loss or lubricity, give **VEN-TROL™ 401** a try!

Sealing Characteristics of Various Shale Control Additives

Test Conditions:

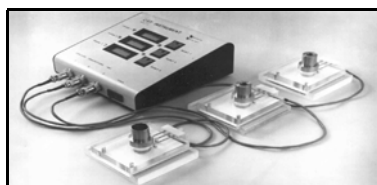
- 1) Base mud - 10 lb/bbl bentonite in fresh water
- 2) Additive Concentrate - 10 lb/bbl
- 3) Stir at HS on Waring Blender
- 4) Test at 100 psi across a 200 g 16/30 unconsolidated pack

SAMPLE	Shut Off	Time
A. Base Mud (BM)	Blow out	0
B. BM + 10 lb/bbl Sulfonated Asphalt	Blow out	0
C. BM + 10 lb/bbl Water Dispersible Gilsonite	Blow out	0
D. BM + 10 lb/bbl VEN-TROL™ 401	52 ml	6 sec.
E. Repeat Sample D	49 ml	6 sec.

Shale Dispersion Measured by CST Instrument 1% Montmorillonite Clay

Shale Control Additive % by weight	VEN-TROL™ 401 CST, seconds	Sulfonated Asphalt CST, seconds
0	425	425
1	500	854
2	29.6	889
3	11.4	1008

Venture Innovations' **CST Instrument** is rapid and easy to use. It was developed to conduct the CST method for evaluating the filtration characteristics of aqueous systems.



For additional information call us toll free at: (800) 523-1933 or fax us at: (337) 237-5340.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Please add my name to the VENEWS mailing list

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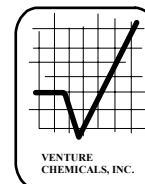
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DECEMBER 2001



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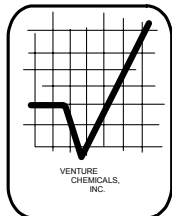
- viscosifiers
- seepage loss additives
- fluid loss additives
- shale control additives
- lost circulation products
- emulsifiers
- oil based products
- wetting agents
- flocculants
- dispersants
- lubricants
- spotting fluids/additives



**ASK SANTA FOR SOMETHING
USEFUL THIS CHRISTMAS!**

**VEN-TROL™ 401...the versatile
shale control additive**

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