

**Abstract :**

Heavy oil has long been treated like a sleeping giant. The Lloydminster area is not noted as an area prone to blowouts and resident evacuations. During the summer of 2004 Devon experienced 2 such occurrences. These events although similar had different circumstances that made them individual.

The blowouts were caused by underbalancing the formation and not properly controlling the gas flow from that point. There were many challenges in getting these two wells under control including lease conditions, weather, and resident issues. Costs to cap the release as well as the cleanup the resulting spill are quite significant.

Since the events Devon has implemented stop checks to prevent similar instances from reoccurring.

**Biography:**

Ron Anderson is a production technologist for Devon Canada. Ron started with Anderson Exploration in 1990 and worked in the field as an operator in gas and oil up until 1997. For the last 7 1/2 years he has worked as a production technologist primarily in heavy oil with a small amount of gas. During that time Devon bought Anderson Exploration, Ron stayed on with Devon. Ron focuses his time on optimizing production, completing heavy oil wells, and conserving vent gas.

Ron Anderson started his oilfield career in Lloydminster in 1985 working for a service rig company. After working rigs for 2 years he went to NAIT where he received a diploma in Petroleum Engineering Technology. He worked in the Fairveiw area for Anderson Exploration operating gas and sour oil, Resman Oil and Gas in the Sylvan lake area operating oil and gas, then operated in Stettler before returning to LLOYDminster in 1990.