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Continuing Education Course #257
A Case Study in Engineering Ethics:
The Deepwater Horizon Disaster

1. Drill strings are designed using the principles of fluid mechanics aimed at maximizing volumetric flow rates while decreasing fluid friction at the pipe and/or borehole wall.
 - a. T
 - b. F

2. A low pressure condition in the wellbore caused by drilling into a natural gas reserve and which results in a pressure release at the surface is called what?
 - a. a kick
 - b. a punch
 - c. hydraulic conductivity
 - d. a blowout

3. Blowouts can be prevented by all of the following means or equipment except:
 - a. bleeding off pressure from the well through a valve connected to the drill pipe
 - b. substituting heavier weight drilling mud into the well until a section of casing pipe can be set
 - c. substituting lighter weight seawater for drilling mud into the well
 - d. using a blowout preventer

4. Of the following parties that were charged as a result of the Deepwater Horizon incident, which one had codes of conduct and ethical standards imposed upon them by the federal government?
 - a. BP Drilling and Completions Project Engineer, Kurt Mix
 - b. BP p.l.c
 - c. Halliburton Energy Services, Inc.
 - d. BP Well Site Leader, Donald Vidrine

5. Under NCEES Model Rule, a professional engineer or professional land surveyor has the obligation to report known or perceived risks to what parties unless prohibited by law?
 - a. employers
 - b. clients
 - c. authorities
 - d. all of the above

6. NCEES Model Law sets forth broad ideas about the regulation of engineering and surveying licensure to assist in legislation preparation.
 - a. T
 - b. F

7. NCEES Model Rules provide licensure boards with rules for guiding the development of engineering and surveying licensing laws and ethics, and are designed to carry out the general concepts set forth in the Model Law.

- a. T
- b. F

8. In 2011, the NSPE and NCEES voted at their annual meetings to create or revise policies in favor of removing industrial exemptions.

- a. T
- b. F

9. By 2016, the NSPE and the NCEES were successful in phasing out the outdated industrial exemptions related to engineering practices.

- a. T
- b. F

10. The role of PEs was expanded in 2016 to include which of the following responsibilities?

- a. certification of casing (string) designs
- b. certification of cement designs used in well drilling and abandonment
- c. responsibility for the prevention of kicks from the well
- d. a and b

11. Under NCEES Model Rule and as required by many states, a professional engineer or professional land surveyor is obligated to notify authorities if his or her professional judgement is overruled under circumstances where the life, health, property, or welfare of the public is endangered.

- a. T
- b. F

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