Well Control Assist Team (WellCAT®)

Facility Profile: Houston, Texas, USA

Dedicated to meeting your most critical well-safety challenges with exceptional response time and over 25 years of pressure-control and snubbing experience.
Weatherford’s Houston-based WellCAT® facility is designed for safe and efficient maintenance and repair of blowout preventers (BOPs) and is the only center of its kind solely dedicated to pressure-control services. This exclusive focus on well control enables us to quickly react and assist our clients in overcoming their most critical well challenges—both onshore and offshore.

In 2012, the WellCAT team completed its move to our state-of-the-art facility in Northwest Houston from the previous location in Alvin, Texas. The fully operational epicenter sits on approximately 13 acres with 35,000 square feet of office, training and warehouse space. Armed with quality equipment and skilled personnel, our WellCAT facility has the capability to respond to any critical well- or pressure-control situation.

Expert personnel is our greatest asset

The hallmark of Weatherford’s business is its people. More than half of the facility’s personnel have over 25 years of experience inspecting, maintaining, assembling and testing pressure-control snubbing and capping stacks in the shop and on hundreds of customer wellsites. Our seasoned field experts have the collective knowledge to understand our clients’ needs and the ability to deliver effective solutions within the client-mandated requirements.

Durability is guaranteed with rigorous BOP testing

We offer an array of innovative snubbing and pressure-control equipment to troubleshoot your toughest well glitches. Each piece of equipment undergoes several stages of BOP testing to ensure the safety and quality of our inventory. Since opening our doors in 1986, equipment tested at the WellCAT facility has performed in the field without fail. Our track record assures clients of safe operations and optimal performance.
Remote BOP test viewing and monitoring

This unique service provides our clients with the advantage of observing BOP tests from remote locations. Pan, tilt and zoom cameras capture the tests from multiple perspectives in a controlled environment. Watch BOP testing live in real time from the convenience of your office, or from the field—anywhere in the world.

A safety-first facility

Committed to ensuring the safety of our staff, the WellCAT facility uses a support system designed specifically to relieve excessive wellhead weight and prevent casing damage when heavy loads are required. Equally noteworthy are the facility’s three 30-ton cranes, which have a weight capacity of 60,000 lb, to enable the safe handling of equipment while helping to reduce mobilization time.

Our test bunkers were engineered by Weatherford to ensure a safe working environment for our personnel. Bunker walls are constructed with 1/2-in. steel plates with an inner lining of 2-in., solid oak boards. These bunkers are capable of withstanding the impact of sudden, unexpected pressure losses.

Faster response time

As the industry’s only dedicated well-control service center, our response times to critical well situations are second to none. Our highly trained field specialists typically mobilize in less than two days.

To save you hours of costly torque time on the wellsite, we use heavy-lift cranes to preassemble the tallest stacks that can be safely transported. Careful planning goes into the rigging design to ensure that the stacks can handle any potential catastrophic event.

Weatherford advantage:
Enhancing rigsite safety

Fit-for-purpose scaffolding is shipped to each job site to provide a safe environment for personnel performing rig up and maintenance duties. We also attach work baskets to pressure-control equipment stacks so field personnel can safely work on equipment as high as 150 ft.

Safety training

To prevent work-related injuries and to ensure that WellCAT employees are properly trained on safety procedures, each field employee attends an eight-day well-control course accredited by the International Association of Drilling Contractors (IADC). The curriculum includes snubbing, workovers and drilling. Upon completion of the course, participants receive IADC’s WellCAP certification. Field personnel designated for offshore assignments are required to enroll in an additional four-day water-survival course, including both instructor-led classroom training and practical application.

Eliminating nonproductive time

The WellCAT team’s rigorous inspection, maintenance and testing of each piece of equipment prior to shipping helps to eliminate costly nonproductive time for equipment repair or replacement at the wellsite. On-site, experienced personnel organize, install, maintain and provide the necessary information on safe and proper equipment usage. They also travel with a customized “toolbox”—a miniature machine shop—stocked with parts and tools, providing quick access to maintenance and repair supplies while on location.

Service history at your request

Weatherford’s electronic database of equipment maintenance records, certifications and inspections is accessible by Weatherford personnel for any serialized equipment, anywhere in the world, at your request. Keeping track of the service history on every piece of equipment is vital for both preventative maintenance and troubleshooting functions. The data also helps us fine-tune our overall maintenance and quality-control procedures.

Maintenance inspection reports bring peace of mind

The WellCAT team employs a stringent maintenance system to ensure that the equipment operates as designed. Maintenance inspection reports (MIRs) are kept on equipment serviced at our facility. MIRs provide you with the assurance that the necessary work has been done to ensure fit-for-purpose equipment for optimal safety and performance, in compliance with government regulations.
Call us today to schedule a tour and take a look at our equipment, services and capabilities. We'll show you firsthand why we're a premier well- and pressure-control facility.

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