

Case study: California

# Mechanical pipe cutter service cut plastic-coated pipe in California

Precise cut made in eight minutes at 16° angle

A major operator working a production well in California had a stuck pipe. After two unsuccessful attempts by a competitor to free the casing string using a chemical cutter, they contacted Baker Hughes.

The 3½ in pipe was plastic-coated and the fluid level was below the cutting depth, making the cut a complex operation for standard cutter services. By using the 2 1/8-in **Mechanical Pipe Cutter™ (MPC™) service** to sever the pipe, Baker Hughes avoided the delay caused by explosives or hazardous chemicals.

The pipe recovery team made a correlation pass to confirm the correct depth prior to cutting. After reaching depth, they positioned the pipe cutter at a 16° angle and successfully cut the pipe with 50,000 lb tension on the tubing while sitting in the hanger. The operation took eight minutes of cutting time and the change in weight was obvious after the cut.

The client praised the quality and precision of the cut as well as the fast deployment. By using the MPC tool, Baker Hughes reduced additional risks by avoiding explosives or hazardous chemicals.



## Challenges

- Onshore production well, California
- Plastic-coated pipe
- Customer had used chemical cutters in the past, without favorable results
- Fluid level below cut
- 3.5-in pipe inside 5.5- and 7-in casings

## Results

- MPC tool ran through 3.5-in tubing to 1,417 ft and cut at a 16° angle
- Cut plastic-coated pipe in eight minutes, reducing rig time
- Less than five hours of total operation time
- After rig down, the work over rig pulled the tubing out to surface
- Provided a non-ballistic, non-chemical solution to sever downhole tubulars
- Efficient cut reduced debris and damage to outer strings
- Confirmed cut avoiding unnecessary trips out of hole
- Minimized mobilization expenses

