

Middle East

Cement solution prevents lost circulation and fluid influx into unset cement

Tailored cement design uses Tuned® Defense™ cement spacer, BridgeMaker™ II LCM, and Super CBL™ EXP additive to minimize lost circulation and fluid influx

CHALLENGE

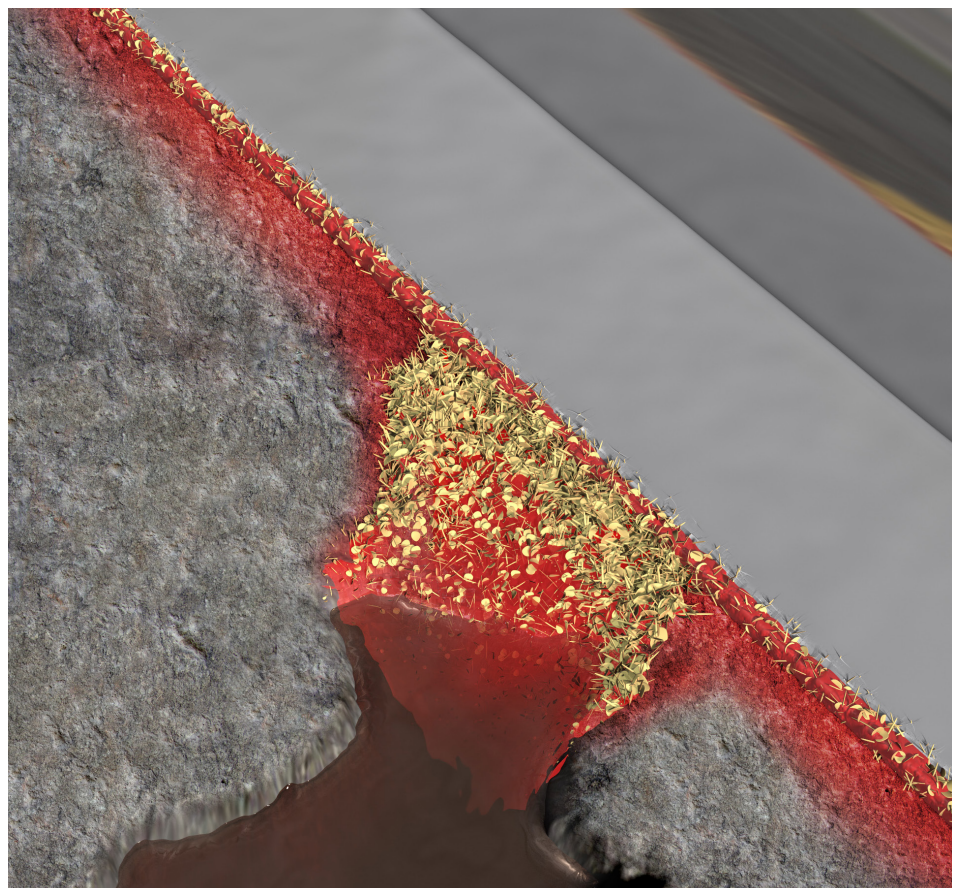
- Achieve planned top of cement (TOC) in a narrow pore and fracture pressure window environment

SOLUTION

- Deploy Tuned® Defense™ cement spacer with BridgeMaker II™ LCM to mitigate losses while lifting cement
- Incorporate Super CBL™ EXP additive to improve bonding and mitigate gas flow

RESULT

- Achieved full returns during displacement
- Validated TOC with real-time lifting pressure data
- Observed full cement coverage at liner top
- Confirmed strong bonding with CBL evaluation



Overview

Cementing operations in formations with narrow pore pressure and fracture gradients pose significant challenges. These environments increase the risk of lost circulation and fluid influx into unset cement, which can compromise zonal isolation by creating channels in the cement barrier. Achieving optimal cement placement is essential to maintaining long-term wellbore integrity.



Challenge

A major operator in the Middle East failed to isolate a 7-in. liner in a high-pressure formation. The narrow pressure window required a high-performance cementing solution designed to help manage pressure, mitigate losses, and ensure complete cement coverage and bonding.

Solution

Halliburton recommended a tailored cementing strategy using the Tuned® Defense™ cement spacer combined with BridgeMaker™ II lost circulation material (LCM) to prepare the annulus and reduce the risk of lost circulation.

A heavyweight cement slurry was formulated with Micromax additive and latex to deliver sufficient overbalance in the zone of interest, minimize permeability, and achieve optimum cement transition time. To further improve bonding and reduce gas migration risk, Super CBL™ EXP additive was included in the slurry design.

To help ensure effective displacement and manage equivalent circulating density (ECD), Halliburton modeled the cement and spacer properties using its iCem® cementing service hydraulic modeling software. Managed pressure cementing (MPC) techniques were also applied to minimize the potential for fluid influx during placement.

Result

The operation achieved full returns during displacement, confirming successful mitigation of lost circulation. Real-time monitoring validated lifting pressures and confirmed that the planned top of cement (TOC) objective was met.

Field observations showed that both spacer and cement were circulated off the top of the liner, indicating full cement coverage. Cement bond log (CBL) evaluations confirmed strong bonding throughout the zone of interest, including the 4 1/2-in. (114-mm) openhole liner and remedial scab, with no evidence of channeling or fluid influx.

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