

API Number Technical Explanation & Examples

Here is a detailed explanation and example of this new API numbering structure:

Example 42-201-20245-00-00

State Code:

The first two digits of the API number represent the surface location of the state the well is located in. In this example, the surface location of this well is located in state code 42 or Texas. Keep in mind that the bottom hole location of this well may be in a contiguous state such as Louisiana, Oklahoma, or New Mexico, but the API number is based on the surface location. Please refer to a State Code List for a complete listing of state and pseudo-state codes.

County Code:

The third through fifth digits of the API number represent the surface location of the county where the well is located. In this example the well is located in county code 101 or Steuben County. Again, keep in mind that the bottom hole location may be in a contiguous county, but the API number is based on the surface location.

Unique Well Identifier:

In most states, the sixth through tenth digit of the API number is assigned as a unique number within the county the well is drilled. In a few states, the unique well identifier is based on the permit number and may only be unique within the state.

In most cases the series 00000 has been used for historical wells (i.e. wells drilled prior to the issuance of API numbers). The series 20000-50000 are used by most states for wells drilled after the state starting assigning API numbers for new permits.

Directional Sidetrack Codes:

The sidetrack code is the eleventh and twelfth digits of the API number. It is used to identify each sidetrack uniquely for the well. A good rule of thumb is to increment the sidetrack code for each unique bottom hole location of the well. In the example above, this is the third sidetrack off the original wellbore.

Event Sequence Code:

The thirteenth and fourteenth digits of the API number indicate how many operations there have been on a single borehole. It is incremented only when part of the borehole identified in the 11th and 12th positions is deepened, recompleted, or worked over. Since the example above shows a code of 00, we know that this is the original drill of sidetrack #3 even though the original and either or both of the previous sidetracks may have been recompleted. (It is important to remember that this code may vary between data vendors based on their database recompletion criteria.)

Examples:

Original Wellbore:

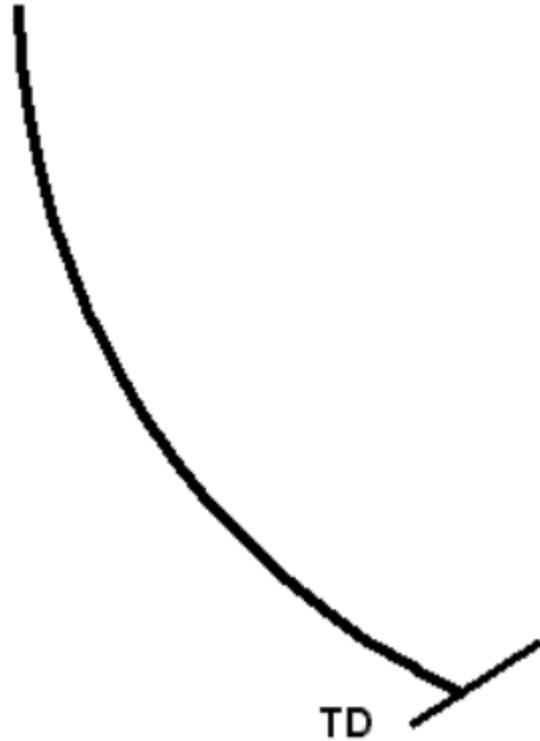
Figure 1
(Vertical Hole)



Original Straight Hole
API #23-001-20130-00-00

State Code 23
County Code 001
Unique Well ID 20130
Sidetrack Code 00
Event Sequence 00

Figure 2
(Directional Hole)



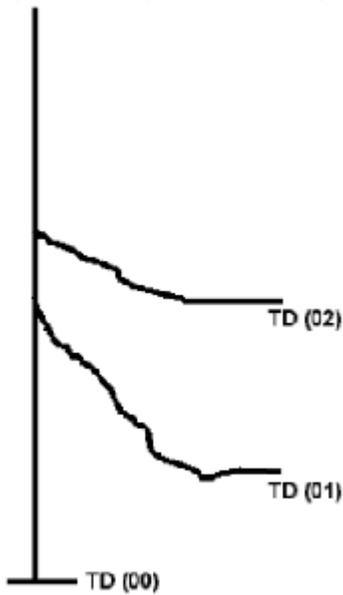
Original Directional Hole
API #42-201-20245-00-00

State Code 42
County Code 201
Unique Well ID 20245
Sidetrack Code 00
Event Sequence 00

Please note that the sidetrack code (11th and 12th digits) in each instance is 00, whether it is a straight, directional or horizontal hole. It is the original wellbore for this well. The subsequent operation code (13th and 14th digits) is 00, as this is the first operation for each well.

Sidetracks:

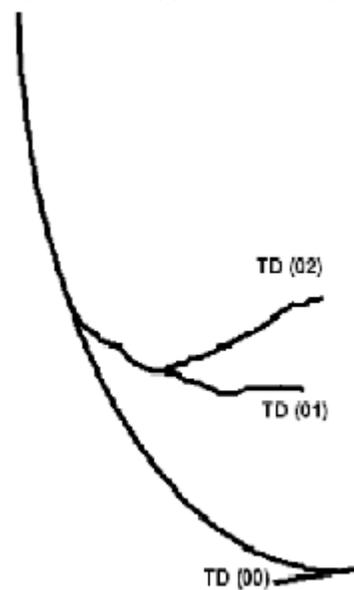
Figure 3
(Sidetrack(s) off vertical)



First Sidetrack off Vertical
API #23-001-20130-01-00
API #23-001-20130-02-00

State Code 23
County Code 001
Unique Well ID 20130
Sidetrack Code 01
Sidetrack Code 02
Event Sequence 00
Event Sequence 00

Figure 4
(Sidetrack(s) off vertical)



First Sidetrack off Directional
API #42-201-20245-01-00
API #42-201-20245-02-00

State Code 42
County Code 201
Unique Well ID 20245
Sidetrack Code 01
Sidetrack Code 02
Event Sequence 00
Event Sequence 00

Please note, the sidetrack code is incremented by 01 for the first sidetrack in each hole, by 02 for the second sidetrack, and so on. However, the subsequent operation code remains at 00 since none of the boreholes have been reworked. A good rule of thumb is any unique bottom hole location will have a new sidetrack code.

Event Sequence Code:

Figure 5
(Recompletion In vertical wellbore)

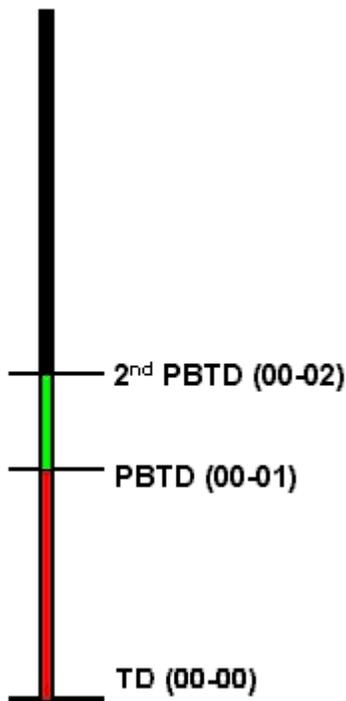


Figure 6
(Recompletion in sidetracked wellbore)

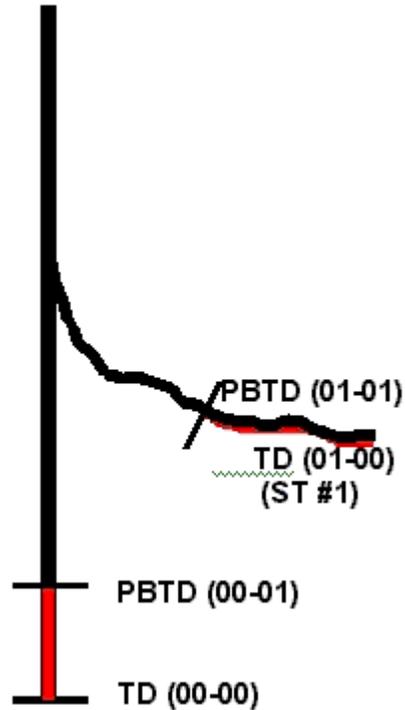


Figure 5 shows a vertical wellbore that has been plugged back twice. Therefore, the API numbers associated with this well are:

- 23-001-20130-00-00 (original wellbore)
- 23-001-20130-00-01 (1st plug back)
- 23-001-20130-00-02 (2nd plug back)

Figure 6 shows a vertical wellbore that has been plugged back once, sidetracked once, and the sidetrack plugged back once. Therefore, the API numbers associated with this well are (the sequence would be the same if original had been directional):

- 05-001-20333-00-00 (original wellbore)
- 05-001-20333-00-01 (plug back of original wellbore)
- 05-001-20333-01-00 (1st sidetrack of original wellbore)
- 05-001-20333-01-01 (1st recompletion of 1st sidetrack)

Please note that even if the plug back to the sidetrack had occurred prior to the plug back of the vertical hole, the numbering would be as above