4.18.2 Planning. Planning can take several courses of action. Prior to the blowout, these courses include the following:

- Blowout contingency plan development
- Design for damage mitigation

More companies are currently working on these tasks.

Blowout contingency plans contain directions and suggested guidelines for handling a blowout situation. Since all blowouts have different characteristics, it is not possible for the contingency plan to handle all possibilities. However, the plans can be relatively thorough and should give the operations leader all the required technical tools to accomplish the task. The contingency plan should include the following:

- Procedures for handling the first few hours after the disaster, i.e., damage control and containment, personnel safety and evacuation, etc.
- Telephone numbers for all key personnel and any local residents that may be affected by the blowout. The list should include civil groups such as hospitals, local law enforcement agencies, and the military if appropriate.
- Pollution containment/abatement procedures.
- Relief well drilling plans and all necessary calculations. Sites should be preselected for all relief wells, so a rig is not spotted in a poor site selection in the haste of the emergency. Errors of uncertainty should be calculated.
- Press and news media coordination and handling procedures.
- H2S procedures.
- Vertical intervention and offset kill operational guidelines where appropriate.
- Techniques for implementing active bridging where appropriate.
- Coordination procedures for working with the blowout advisor.
- Plans for training and drills of key emergency response personnel.