

THAT CLAIMED IS:

1. A wellhead-based control apparatus to control a well, the apparatus comprising:
 - a wellhead housing including a bore adapted to receive a plurality of casing strings extending therethrough, each of the plurality of casing strings having a different diameter than each other of the plurality of casing strings; and
 - an emergency well fluid shutoff assembly connected to or integral with the wellhead housing and including:
 - a casing strings compression assembly positioned to radially compress each of the plurality of casing strings, and
 - a casing strings compression actuator operably coupled to the casing strings compression assembly to actuate the casing strings compression assembly.
2. A wellhead-based control apparatus as defined in Claim 1,
 - wherein compression is performed at approximately a same coaxial location for each of the plurality of casing strings.
3. A wellhead-based control apparatus as defined in Claim 1,
 - wherein the casing strings compression assembly includes a pair of opposing compression rams positioned to extend radially toward a center of the bore of the wellhead housing to apply a compressing force to each of the plurality of casing strings.
4. A wellhead-based control apparatus as defined in Claim 3,
 - wherein each of the pair of opposing compression rams includes a hydraulic piston connected to a portion of the wellhead housing to apply the compressing force to the plurality of casing strings; and
 - wherein the casing strings compression actuator includes a hydraulic source comprising one or more of the following: a hydraulic accumulator storing pressurized hydraulic fluid and a hydraulic pump assembly having a hydraulic pump, a motor positioned to drive the hydraulic pump, and a hydraulic fluid reservoir.

5. A wellhead-based control apparatus as defined in Claim 3,
wherein each of the pair of opposing compression rams includes a linear actuator connected to a portion of the wellhead housing that when rotated extends portions of the compression rams toward a center of the bore of the wellhead housing to apply the compressing force to the plurality of casing strings; and
wherein the casing strings compression actuator includes at least one electric motor positioned to rotate the linear actuators and an electrical power source.
6. A wellhead-based control apparatus as defined in Claim 3,
wherein the casing strings compression actuator includes at least one explosive charge positioned to cause each of the opposing compression rams to simultaneously move radially toward a center of the bore of the wellhead housing to apply the compressing force to the plurality of casing strings.
7. A wellhead-based control apparatus as defined in Claim 1, further comprising:
a remote activation controller connected to or integral with the emergency well fluid shutoff assembly to receive remote activation commands and to provide a remote activation signal to the casing strings compression actuator to cause actuation of the casing strings compression assembly.
8. A wellhead-based control apparatus to control a well, the apparatus comprising:
a wellhead housing including a bore adapted to receive a plurality of casing strings extending therethrough, each of the plurality of casing strings having a different diameter than each other of the plurality of casing strings; and
an emergency well fluid diversion assembly connected to or integral with the wellhead housing and including:
a casing strings penetrator positioned to form an aperture in each of the plurality of casing strings, and
a well fluid diverter positioned to extend through the aperture in each of the plurality of casing strings to divert well fluid from within the wellhead housing to an

external conduit to thereby release fluid pressure of well fluid flowing within the wellhead housing in a controlled manner.

9. A wellhead-based control apparatus as defined in Claim 8, wherein the penetrator is positioned to form the aperture in each of the plurality of casing strings at approximately a same coaxial location for each of the plurality of casing strings.

10. A wellhead-based control apparatus as defined in Claim 8, wherein the penetrator comprises one or more of the following:

- a cutting blade assembly positioned to cut an aperture through the wellhead housing and the plurality of casing strings,
- an electrical discharge cutting assembly positioned to cut an aperture through the wellhead housing and the plurality of casing strings,
- a chemical milling assembly positioned to cut an aperture through the wellhead housing and the plurality of casing strings, and
- an explosive discharge cutting assembly including a explosive charge operably connected to a cutting torpedo to cut an aperture through the wellhead housing and the plurality of casing strings,

wherein the diverter further extends through an aperture in the wellhead housing; and wherein inner surface portions one or more of the apertures extending through the plurality of casing strings and the wellhead housing and outer surface portions of the diverter are sized to form a sealing relationship between the outer surface portions of the diverter and the inner surface portions of the one or more of the apertures.

11. A wellhead-based control apparatus as defined in Claim 8, wherein the diverter includes:

- a main body;
- a passageway extending through portions of the main body along a main axis thereof to channel well fluid from within the wellhead housing wherein the diverter is sealingly engaged within one or more of the apertures cut through a corresponding one or more of the plurality of casing strings; and

a well fluid collection aperture extending through at least a portion of the diverter and connecting to the passageway to provide a fluid channel to the passageway.

12. A wellhead-based control apparatus as defined in Claim 11,
wherein the well fluid collection aperture of the diverter comprises a downward facing recess that does not extend through the main body of the diverter so that when the diverter is operably positioned and sealed within the wellhead housing, the well fluid collection aperture channels well fluid into the passageway to divert well fluid from within the wellhead housing to an external conduit.

13. A wellhead-based control apparatus as defined in Claim 11,
wherein the well fluid collection aperture further extends through the main body of the diverter to provide a fluid bypass for well fluid within the wellhead housing during penetration of the diverter into the one or more of the apertures cut through the wellhead housing and cut through each of the plurality of casing strings; and

wherein the diverter includes a gate connected to upper surface portions of the diverter and slidingly positioned so that when actuated, the gate diverts closes a portion of the well fluid collection aperture to divert well fluid entering the well fluid collection aperture into the passageway extending through portions of the main body of the diverter to thereby divert well fluid from within the wellhead housing to an external conduit.

14. A wellhead-based control apparatus as defined in Claim N, further comprising:
an emergency well fluid shutoff assembly integral with the wellhead housing and including a casing strings compression assembly positioned to radially compress each of the plurality of casing strings, and a casing strings compression actuator operably coupled to the casing strings compression assembly to actuate the casing strings compression assembly, the emergency well fluid shutoff assembly configured to prevent well fluid passage through portions of the wellhead located above the emergency well fluid diversion assembly so that when actuated, well fluid is diverted from within the wellhead housing to an external conduit.

15. A wellhead-based control apparatus as defined in Claim 8, further comprising:

a remote activation controller connected to or integral with the emergency well fluid diversion assembly to receive remote activation commands and to provide a remote activation signal to one or more of the following: the casing strings penetrator to cause the formation of the aperture in each of the plurality of casing strings, and the well fluid diverter to extend through the aperture in each of the plurality of casing strings to divert well fluid from within the wellhead housing to an external conduit.

16. A wellhead-based control apparatus to control a well, the apparatus comprising:

a wellhead housing including a bore adapted to receive a plurality of casing strings extending therethrough, each of the plurality of casing strings having a different diameter than each other of the plurality of casing strings;

an emergency well fluid diversion assembly connected to or integral with the wellhead housing and including: a casing strings penetrator positioned to form an aperture in each of the plurality of casing strings, and a well fluid diverter positioned to extend through the aperture in each of the plurality of casing strings to divert well fluid from within the wellhead housing to an external conduit to thereby release fluid pressure of well fluid flowing within the wellhead housing in a controlled manner; and

an emergency well fluid shutoff assembly connected to or integral with the wellhead housing and including: a casing strings compression assembly positioned to radially compress each of the plurality of casing strings, and a casing strings compression actuator operably coupled to the casing strings compression assembly to actuate the casing strings compression assembly, the emergency well fluid shutoff assembly configured to prevent well fluid passage through portions of the wellhead located above the emergency well fluid diversion assembly so that when actuated, well fluid is diverted from within the wellhead housing to an external conduit.

17. A wellhead-based control apparatus as defined in Claim 16,
wherein the penetrator is positioned to form the aperture in each of the plurality of casing strings at approximately a same coaxial location for each of the plurality of casing strings;
wherein the diverter further extends through an aperture in the wellhead housing; and
wherein inner surface portions one or more of the apertures extending through the plurality of casing strings and the wellhead housing and outer surface portions of the diverter are sized to form a sealing relationship between the outer surface portions of the diverter and the inner surface portions of the one or more of the apertures.

18. A wellhead-based control apparatus as defined in Claim 16,
wherein the diverter includes:
a main body,
a passageway extending through portions of the main body along a main axis thereof to channel well fluid from within the wellhead housing wherein the diverter is sealingly engaged within one or more of the apertures cut through a corresponding one or more of the plurality of casing strings, and
a well fluid collection aperture extending through at least a portion each of the diverter and connecting to the passageway to provide a fluid channel to the passageway;
and
wherein the wellhead-based control apparatus further comprises an external fluid conduit operably coupled to the diverter to receive a well fluid diverted from within the wellhead housing.

19. A wellhead-based control apparatus as defined in Claim 16,
wherein compression is performed at approximately a same coaxial location for each of the plurality of casing strings;
wherein the casing strings compression assembly includes a pair of opposing compression rams positioned to extend radially toward a center of the bore of the wellhead housing to apply a compressing force to each of the plurality of casing strings; and

wherein the compression of the plurality of casing strings achieves at least approximately a 95 percent reduction in fluid flow of well fluids flowing through the wellhead housing to a blow out preventer connected to an upper portion of the wellhead housing.

20. A method to control a well, the method comprising the steps of:

employing a casing strings penetrator of an emergency well fluid diversion assembly to form an aperture in at least one of a plurality of casing strings, each of the plurality of casing strings coaxially located within and extending through portions of a wellhead housing, each of the plurality of casing strings having a different diameter than each other of the plurality of casing strings; and

extending a well fluid diverter through an aperture in a side of the wellhead housing and the aperture in the at least one of the plurality of casing strings to divert well fluid from within the wellhead housing to an external conduit to thereby release fluid pressure of well fluid within the wellhead housing in a controlled manner.

21. A method as defined in Claim 20, wherein the penetrator is positioned to form the aperture in each of the plurality of casing strings at approximately a same coaxial location for each of the plurality of casing strings.

22. A method as defined in Claim 20,

wherein inner surface portions of the aperture in a side of the wellhead housing and outer surface portions of the diverter are sized to form a sealing relationship between the outer surface portions of the diverter and the inner surface portions of the aperture in the wellhead housing; and

wherein the step of extending a well fluid diverter through an aperture in a side of the wellhead housing includes sealingly engaging outer surface portions of the diverter extending into the aperture in a side of the wellhead housing with inner surface portions of the aperture in a side of the wellhead housing to divert well fluid from within the wellhead housing to an external conduit.

23. A method as defined in Claim 20,
wherein the diverter includes: a main body, a passageway extending through portions of the main body along a main axis thereof to channel well fluid from within the wellhead housing, and a well fluid collection aperture extending through at least a portion of the diverter and connecting to the passageway to provide a fluid channel to the passageway; and

wherein inner surface portions one or more of the apertures extending through one or more of plurality of casing strings and outer surface portions of the diverter are sized to form a sealing relationship between outer surface portions of the diverter and the inner surface portions of the one or more of the apertures to divert well fluid from within the wellhead housing to an external conduit.

24. A method as defined in Claim 20,
wherein the diverter includes: a main body, a passageway extending through portions of the main body along a main axis thereof to channel well fluid from within the wellhead housing, and a well fluid collection aperture extending through at least a portion of the diverter and connecting to the passageway to provide a fluid channel to the passageway;

wherein the well fluid collection aperture of the diverter comprises a downward facing recess that does not extend through the main body of the diverter so that when the diverter is operably positioned and sealed within the wellhead housing, the well fluid collection aperture faces downward within the wellhead housing and channels well fluid into the passageway to divert well fluid from within the wellhead housing to an external conduit;

wherein portions of the diverter to be inserted within the wellhead housing include:

an upper surface and lower surface, a distance therebetween defining a thickness of the portions of the diverter to be inserted within the wellhead housing, and

a first and a second sidewall, a distance therebetween defining a width of the portions of the diverter to be inserted within the wellhead housing;

wherein the thickness of portions of the diverter to be inserted within the wellhead housing is substantially smaller than the width of the portions of the diverter to be inserted so that when the diverter is inserted through the aperture in the wellhead housing and the aperture in at least one of the plurality of casing strings with the upper and lower surfaces oriented

substantially transverse to a main axis of the wellhead, well fluid flows past the diverter to portions of the wellhead housing located above the aperture in the wellhead housing; and

wherein the step of extending a well fluid diverter through the aperture in the side of the wellhead housing and the aperture in the at least one of the plurality of casing strings includes initially inserting portions of the diverter with the upper and lower surfaces of the inserted portions of the diverter oriented at least partially transverse to a direction of flow of well fluid within the wellhead housing to thereby allow well fluid to bypass the diverter.

25. A method as defined in Claim 24,

wherein inner surface portions of an aperture in the wellhead housing and outer surface portions of the diverter are sized to form a sealing relationship between the outer surface portions of the diverter and the inner surface portions of the aperture in the wellhead housing;

wherein the step of extending a well fluid diverter through the aperture in the side of the wellhead housing includes sealingly engaging outer surface portions of the diverter extending into the aperture in the wellhead housing with inner surface portions of the aperture in the wellhead housing; and

wherein the method further comprises the step of rotating the diverter to orient the downward facing aperture in a direction of the well fluid within the wellhead housing to divert well fluid from within the wellhead housing to the passageway in the diverter and to an external conduit.

26. A method as defined in Claim 24, further comprising the step of rotating the diverter, the step of rotating the diverter including:

sealingly engaging outer surface portions of the diverter with inner surface portions of the aperture in at least one of the plurality of casing strings; and

orienting the downward facing aperture in a direction of the well fluid within the wellhead housing to divert well fluid from within the wellhead housing to the passageway in the diverter and to an external conduit.

27. A method as defined in Claim 20, further comprising the step of:

employing a casing strings compression assembly of an emergency well fluid shutoff assembly to radially compress each of the plurality of casing strings to restrict well fluid passage through portions of the wellhead located above the emergency well fluid diversion assembly so that when actuated, well fluid is diverted from within the wellhead housing to an external conduit through the well fluid diversion assembly.

28. A method as defined in Claim 27,

wherein the casing strings compression assembly includes a pair of opposing compression rams positioned to extend radially toward a center of the bore of the wellhead housing to apply a compressing force to each of the plurality of casing strings; and

wherein compression is performed at approximately a same coaxial location for each of the plurality of casing strings.

THAT CLAIMED IS:

1. A wellhead-based control apparatus to control a well, the apparatus comprising: a wellhead housing configured to hang a plurality of casing strings, the wellhead housing including a bore adapted to receive the plurality of casing strings extending therethrough, each of the plurality of casing strings having a different diameter than each other of the plurality of casing strings; and an emergency well fluid shutoff assembly comprising: a casing strings compression assembly positioned to radially compress each of the plurality of casing strings, and a casing strings compression actuator operably coupled to the casing strings compression assembly to actuate the casing strings compression assembly. wherein a blowout preventer is connected to the wellhead housing; wherein substantial portions of the emergency well fluid shutoff assembly including the casing strings compression assembly are located below and separate from the blowout preventer; and wherein compression is performed at approximately a same coaxial location for each of the plurality of casing strings.
2. A wellhead-based control apparatus as defined in claim 1, further comprising: a remote activation controller connected to or integral with the emergency well fluid shutoff assembly to receive remote activation commands and to provide a remote activation signal to the casing strings compression actuator to cause actuation, of the casing strings compression assembly.
3. A wellhead-based control apparatus to control a well, the apparatus comprising: wellhead housing configured to hang a plurality of casing strings, the wellhead housing including a bore adapted to receive the plurality of casing strings extending therethrough, each of the plurality of casing strings having a different diameter than each other of the plurality of casing strings; and an emergency well fluid shutoff assembly comprising: a casing strings compression assembly positioned to radially compress each of the plurality of casing strings, the casing strings compression assembly including a pair of opposing compression rams positioned to extend radially toward a center of the bore of the wellhead housing to apply a compressing force to each of the plurality of casing strings, the casing strings compression assembly located below and separate from any blowout preventer stack

or assembly, and a casing strings compression actuator operably coupled to the casing strings compression assembly to actuate the casing strings compression assembly.

4. A wellhead-based control apparatus: as defined in claim 3, wherein each of the pair of opposing compression rams includes a hydraulic piston connected to a portion of the wellhead housing to apply the compressing force to the plurality of casing strings; and wherein the casing strings compression actuator includes a hydraulic source comprising one or more of the following: a hydraulic accumulator storing pressurized hydraulic fluid and a hydraulic pump assembly having a hydraulic pump, a motor positioned to drive the hydraulic pump, and a hydraulic fluid reservoir.

5. A wellhead-based control apparatus as defined in claim 3, wherein each of the pair of opposing compression rams includes a linear actuator connected to a portion of the wellhead housing that when rotated extends portions of the compression rams toward a center of the bore of the wellhead housing to apply the compressing force to the plurality of casing strings; and wherein the casing strings compression actuator includes at least one electric motor positioned to rotate the linear actuators and an electrical power source.

6. A wellhead-based control apparatus as defined in claim 3, wherein the casing strings compression actuator includes at least one explosive charge positioned to cause each of the opposing compression rams to simultaneously move radially toward a center of the bore of the wellhead housing to apply the compressing force to the plurality of casing strings.

7. A wellhead-based control apparatus to control a well, the apparatus comprising: a wellhead housing configured to hang a plurality of casing strings, the wellhead housing including, a bore adapted to receive the plurality of casing strings extending therethrough, each of the plurality of casing strings having a different diameter than each other of the plurality of casing strings; and an emergency well fluid diversion assembly including: a casing strings penetrator positioned to form an aperture in each of the plurality of casing strings defining a plurality of apertures, and a well fluid diverter positioned to extend through the plurality of apertures to divert well fluid from flowing within the wellhead housing to an external conduit to thereby

release fluid pressure of well fluid flowing within the wellhead housing in a controlled manner, wherein portions of the diverter to be extended through the plurality of apertures include an upper surface and lower surface having an axis extending therebetween, a distance therebetween defining as thickness of the portions of the diverter to be extended through the plurality of apertures, and a first and as second sidewall, a distance therebetween defining a width of the portions of the diverter to be extended through the plurality of apertures, and wherein the thickness of portions of the diverter to be inserted within the plurality of apertures is substantially smaller than the width of the portions of the diverter to be inserted so that when the diverter is inserted through the aperture in at least one of the plurality of casing strings with the axis extending between the upper and the lower surfaces oriented substantially transverse to a main axis of the wellhead, well fluid flows past the diverter to portions of the wellhead housing located above the plurality of apertures, and when the lower surface is oriented to face in a direction of the well fluid flowing within the wellhead housing, substantial portions of the well fluid is diverted from flowing within the wellhead housing and to the external conduit.

8. A wellhead-based control apparatus as defined in claim 7, wherein the penetrator is positioned to form the aperture in each of the plurality of casing strings at approximately a same coaxial location for each of the plurality of casing strings.

9. A wellhead-based control apparatus as defined in claim 7, wherein the penetrator comprises one or more of the following: a cutting blade assembly positioned to cut an aperture through the wellhead housing and the plurality of casing strings, an electrical discharge cutting assembly positioned to cut an aperture through the wellhead housing and the plurality of casing strings, a chemical milling assembly positioned to cut an aperture through the wellhead housing and the plurality of casing strings, and an explosive discharge cutting assembly including a explosive charge operably connected to a cutting torpedo to cut an aperture through the wellhead housing and the plurality of casing strings, wherein the diverter further extends through an aperture in the wellhead housing; and wherein inner surface portions of one or more of the apertures extending through the plurality of casing strings and the wellhead housing and outer surface portions of the diverter are sized to form a sealing relationship between the outer surface portions of the diverter and the inner surface

portions of the one or more of the apertures.

10. A wellhead-based control apparatus as defined in claim 7, wherein the diverter includes; a main body; a passageway extending through portions of the main body along a main axis thereof to channel well fluid from within the wellhead housing wherein the diverter is sealingly engaged within one or more of the apertures cut through a corresponding one or more of the plurality of casing strings; and a well fluid collection aperture extending through at least a portion of the diverter and connecting to the passageway to provide a fluid channel to the passageway.

11. A wellhead-based control apparatus as defined in claim 10, wherein the well fluid collection aperture of the diverter comprises a downward facing recess that does not extend through the main body of the diverter so that when the diverter is operably positioned and sealed within the wellhead housing, the well fluid collection aperture channels well fluid into the passageway to divert well fluid from within the wellhead housing to the external conduit.

12. A wellhead-based control apparatus as defined in claim 10, wherein the well fluid collection aperture further extends through the main body of the diverter to provide a fluid bypass for well fluid within the wellhead housing during penetration of the diverter into the one or more of the apertures cut through the wellhead housing and cut through each of the plurality of casing strings; and wherein the diverter includes a gate connected to upper surface portions of the diverter and slidingly positioned so that when actuated, the gate closes a portion of the well fluid collection aperture to divert well fluid entering the well fluid collection aperture into the passageway extending through portions of the main body of the diverter to thereby divert well fluid from within the wellhead housing to the external conduit.

13. A wellhead-based control apparatus as defined in claim 10, further comprising: an emergency well fluid shutoff assembly integral with the wellhead housing and including a casing strings compression assembly positioned to radially compress each of the plurality of casing strings, and a casing strings compression actuator operably coupled to the casing strings compression assembly to actuate the casing strings compression assembly, the emergency well fluid shutoff assembly configured to

prevent well fluid passage through portions of the wellhead located above the emergency well fluid diversion assembly so that when actuated, well fluid is diverted from within the wellhead housing to the external conduit.

14. A wellhead-based control apparatus as defined in claim 7, further comprising: a remote activation controller connected to or integral with the emergency well fluid diversion assembly to receive remote activation commands and to provide a remote activation signal to one or more of the following: the casing strings penetrator to cause the formation of the aperture in each of the plurality of casing strings, and the well fluid diverter to extend through the aperture in each of the plurality of casing strings to divert well fluid from within the wellhead housing to the external conduit.

15. A wellhead-based control apparatus to control a well, the apparatus comprising: a wellhead housing including a bore adapted to receive a plurality of casing strings extending therethrough, each of the plurality of casing strings having a different diameter than each other of the plurality of casing strings; an emergency well fluid diversion assembly including: a casing strings penetrator positioned to form an aperture in each of the plurality of casing strings defining a plurality of apertures, and a well fluid diverter positioned to extend through the aperture in each of the plurality of casing strings to divert well fluid from flowing within the wellhead housing, to an external conduit to thereby release fluid pressure of well fluid flowing within the wellhead housing in a controlled manner, wherein portions of the diverter to be extended through the plurality of apertures include an upper surface and lower surface having an axis extending therebetween, a distance therebetween defining a thickness of the portions of the diverter to be extended through the plurality of apertures, and a first and a second sidewall, a distance therebetween defining a width of the portions of the diverter to be extended through the plurality of apertures, and wherein the thickness of portions of the diverter to be inserted within the plurality of apertures is substantially smaller than the width of the portions of the diverter to be inserted so that when the diverter is inserted through the aperture in at least one of the plurality of casing strings with the axis extending between the upper and the lower surfaces oriented substantially transverse to a main axis of the wellhead, well fluid flows past the diverter to portions of the wellhead housing located above the plurality of apertures, and when the lower surface is oriented to face in a direction of the well fluid

flowing within the wellhead housing, substantial portions of the well fluid is diverted from flowing within the wellhead housing and to the external conduit; and an emergency well fluid shutoff assembly including: a casing strings compression assembly positioned to radially compress each of the plurality of casing strings, and a casing strings compression actuator operably coupled to the casing strings compression assembly to actuate the casing strings compression assembly, the emergency well fluid shutoff assembly configured to reduce well fluid flow of well fluids flowing through portions of the wellhead located above the emergency well fluid diversion assembly and above the casing strings compression assembly so that when actuated, well fluid is diverted from within the wellhead housing to the external conduit.

16. wellhead-based control apparatus as defined in claim 15, wherein the penetrator is positioned to form the aperture in each of the plurality of casing strings at approximately a same coaxial location for each of the plurality of casing strings; wherein the diverter further extends through an aperture in the wellhead housing; and wherein inner surface portions of one or more of the apertures extending through the plurality of casing strings and the wellhead housing and outer surface portions of the diverter are sized to form a sealing relationship between the outer surface portions of the diverter and the inner surface portions of the one or more of the apertures.

17. A wellhead-based control apparatus as defined in claim 15 wherein the diverter includes: a main body, a passageway extending through portions of the main body along a main axis thereof to channel well fluid from within the wellhead housing wherein the diverter is sealingly engaged within one or more of the apertures cut through a corresponding one or more of the plurality of casing strings, and a well fluid collection aperture extending through at least a portion each of the diverter and connecting to the passageway to provide a fluid channel to the passageway; and wherein the wellhead-based control apparatus further comprises the external conduit operably coupled to the diverter to receive well fluid diverted from within the wellhead housing.

18. A wellhead-based control apparatus as defined in claim 15, wherein compression is performed at approximately a same coaxial location for each of the

plurality of casing strings; wherein the casing strings compression assembly includes a pair of opposing of compression rams positioned to extend radially toward a center of the bore of the wellhead housing to apply a compressing force to each of the plurality of casing strings; and wherein the compression of the plurality of casing strings achieves at least approximately a 95 percent reduction in fluid flow of the well fluids flowing through the wellhead housing to the blow out preventer.

19. A method to control a well, the method comprising the steps of: employing a casing strings penetrator of an emergency well fluid diversion assembly to form an aperture in at least one of a plurality of casing strings, each of the plurality of casing strings coaxially located within and extending through portions of a wellhead housing, each of the plurality of casing strings having a different diameter than each other of the plurality of casing strings; and extending a well fluid diverter through an aperture in a side of the wellhead housing and the aperture in the at least one of the plurality of casing strings to divert well fluid from flowing within the wellhead housing to an external conduit to thereby release fluid pressure of well fluid within the wellhead housing in a controlled manner; wherein the diverter includes: a main body, a passageway extending through portions of the main body along a main axis thereof to channel well fluid from flowing within the wellhead housing, and a well fluid collection aperture extending through at least a portion of the diverter and connecting to the passageway to provide a fluid channel to the passageway; wherein the well fluid collection aperture of the diverter comprises a downward facing recess that does not extend through the main body of the diverter so that when the diverter is operably positioned and sealed within the wellhead housing, the well fluid collection aperture faces downward within the wellhead housing and channels well fluid into the passageway to divert well fluid from within the wellhead housing to the external conduit; wherein portions of the diverter to be inserted within the aperture in the wellhead housing include: an upper surface and lower surface, a distance therebetween defining a thickness of the portions of the diverter to be inserted within the wellhead housing, and a first and a second sidewall, a distance therebetween defining a width of the portions of the diverter to be inserted within the wellhead housing; wherein the thickness of portions of the diverter to be inserted within the wellhead housing is substantially smaller than the width of the portions of the diverter to be inserted so that when the diverter is inserted through the aperture in the wellhead housing and the

aperture in at least one of the plurality of casing strings with the upper and lower surfaces oriented substantially transverse to a main axis of the wellhead, well fluid flows past the diverter to portions of the wellhead housing located above the aperture in the wellhead housing; and wherein the step of extending a well fluid diverter through the aperture in the side of the wellhead housing and the aperture in the at least one of the plurality of casing strings includes initially inserting portions of the diverter with the upper and lower surfaces of the inserted portions of the diverter oriented at least partially transverse to a direction of flow of well fluid within the wellhead housing to thereby allow well fluid to bypass the diverter.

20. A method as defined in claim 19, wherein the penetrator is positioned to form the aperture in each of the plurality of casing strings at approximately a same coaxial location for each of the plurality of casing strings.

21. A method as defined in claim 19, wherein inner surface portions of the aperture in a side of the wellhead housing and outer surface portions of the diverter are sized to form a sealing relationship between the outer surface portions of the diverter and the inner surface portions of the aperture in the wellhead housing; and wherein the step of extending a well fluid diverter through an aperture in a side of the wellhead housing includes sealingly engaging outer surface portions of the diverter extending into the aperture in a side of the wellhead housing with inner surface portions of the aperture in a side of the wellhead housing to divert well fluid from within the wellhead housing to the external conduit.

22. A method as defined in claim 19, wherein inner surface portions of one or more of the apertures extending through one or more of plurality of casing strings and outer surface portions of the diverter are sized to form a sealing relationship between outer surface portions of the diverter and the inner surface portions of the one or more of the apertures to divert well fluid from within the wellhead housing to the external conduit.

23. A method as defined in Claim 19, wherein inner surface portions of an aperture in the wellhead housing and outer surface portions of the diverter are sized to form a sealing relationship between the outer surface portions of the diverter and the inner

surface portions of the aperture in the wellhead housing; wherein the step of extending a well fluid diverter through the aperture in the side of the wellhead housing includes sealingly engaging outer surface portions of the diverter extending into the aperture in the wellhead housing with inner surface portions of the aperture in the wellhead housing; and wherein the method farther comprises the step of rotating the diverter to orient the downward facing aperture in a direction of the well fluid within the wellhead housing to divert well fluid from within the wellhead housing to the passageway in the diverter and to the external conduit.

24. A method as defined in claim 19, further comprising the step of rotating the diverter, the step of rotating the diverter including: sealingly engaging outer surface portions of the diverter with inner surface portions of the aperture in at least one of the plurality of casing strings; and orienting the downward facing aperture in a direction of the well fluid within the wellhead housing to divert well fluid from within the wellhead housing to the passageway in the diverter and to the external conduit.

25. A method as defined in claim 19, further comprising the step of: employing a casing strings compression assembly of an emergency well fluid shutoff assembly to radially compress each of the plurality of casing strings to restrict well fluid passage through portions of the wellhead located above the emergency well fluid diversion assembly so that when actuated, well fluid is diverted from within the wellhead housing to the external conduit through the well fluid diversion assembly.

26. A method as defined in claim 25, wherein the casing strings compression assembly includes a pair of opposing compression rams positioned to extend radially toward a center of the bore of the wellhead housing to apply a compressing force to each of the plurality of casing strings; and wherein compression is performed at approximately a same coaxial location for each of the plurality of casing strings.