



SARNIA REFINERY

HYDROGEN SULPHIDE

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Document Owner: Manager, EH&S

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STANDARD

SCOPE AND PURPOSE

This Standard identifies controls to reduce the risk of exposure to hydrogen sulphide (H₂S).

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

All employees, contractors and visitors must comply with this Standard.

Operations Managers are accountable to ensure high H₂S areas are identified, posted with warning signs and yellow chains, and fixed detectors and alarms in their area are maintained.

RISK ASSESSMENT

High H₂S areas include:

- Areas containing equipment that handle or potentially could handle streams with an H₂S concentration of 20,000 ppm or greater and where there is a higher likelihood for loss of containment.
- Areas between 500 - 20,000 ppm that have been determined to be high H₂S areas using the criteria set forth in Engineering Procedure – High H₂S Area Determination.

High H₂S areas are posted with yellow chain around the perimeter with the following signage:

- Where monitored with Fixed H₂S detectors – yellow sign “**High H₂S Area**”
- Where not monitored with Fixed H₂S detectors or insufficient monitors – red sign “**High H₂S Area**”

All other areas within the processing units, Offsites and Lab have the potential for H₂S exposure at lower concentration

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The Buddy Role

A buddy must be familiar with the duties of the role and be SCBA trained.

A Buddy will:

- wear an identifying vest unless the buddy is an Operator
- observe workers from outside and upwind of the area perimeter
- immediately sound the alarm at the nearest rescue station should a worker be overcome, don SCBA, and wait for assistance
- not attempt to rescue a person on their own

NOTE:

The Buddy Role in the main flare area will follow a different procedure because the nearest rescue station in Plant 4 is too far away. For work in the main flare area, the Buddy shall have a radio set to the Plant 3 channel. Just before work begins the Buddy shall inspect the SCBA stored in the gray storage shed at the fence line to the main flare area. Ensure they have the proper sized face piece and the SCBA tank is full and ready for service. In the event a worker is overcome, the Buddy shall contact CB4 providing operations with the location. The Buddy shall don the SCBA and wait for assistance upwind of the site the worker was overcome. In the event of radio failure, the Buddy will report directly to CB4.

RISK CONTROLS

Fixed H₂S detectors have an initial alarm at 10 ppm and a second alarm at 15 ppm. These detectors also alarm in control centres to alert operations.

As per the Personal Protective Equipment standard, all personnel must wear one of the following personal H₂S gas monitors on the outside of their PPE when entering or working in process units, Offsites areas and the Lab:

- Wireless personal gas detector (WPGD); or
- Personal single-gas H₂S monitor.

Personal H₂S Gas Monitors must have a low alarm at 10 ppm and a high alarm at 15 ppm. The only exception to wearing a Personal H₂S Gas Monitor is while performing a task where the H₂S exposure exceeds the alarm limits and the worker is protected by fresh air. In these cases, it is permissible to remove the Personal H₂S Gas Monitor to prevent the device from being in a constant alarm mode.

Additional personal risk controls apply to high H₂S areas based on the risk of the task. The following risk controls are required in the defined tables below



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Low H₂S Exposure Risk Activities and Controls

Work activities may be considered for classification as “Low Risk” in classified high H₂S areas if the activity is non-intrusive work to process equipment and the activities listed in Table 1 are not likely to create any Loss of Primary Containment (LOPC).

TABLE 1

Low H ₂ S Exposure Risk Activities	Low H ₂ S Exposure Risk Controls
<p>Please reference the list of activities provided in Appendix A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low H₂S exposure risk activities - general • Low H₂S Exposure Risk Activities specific to SIM work activities • Low H₂S Exposure Risk Activities specific to Operations work activities 	<p>Fixed H₂S Detector Monitors in the areas</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal H₂S Gas Monitor • 1 Radio per working crew <p>No Fixed H₂S Detector Monitor in the area or Insufficient number of fixed detectors in the area</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal H₂S Gas Monitor • 1 Radio per working crew <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working Crew is 4 people or less
<p>RADIOS: A radio used by working crews is to be on the related operation channel indicated on the safe work the permit.</p>	
<p>IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY: You are to immediately notify operations by radio once in a safe location.</p>	

High H₂S Exposure Risk Activities and Controls

Intrusive process equipment work activities listed in Table 2 are considered to have a “High H₂S exposure risk” and defined controls shall be followed at all times.

TABLE 2

High H ₂ S Exposure Risk Activities	High H ₂ S Exposure Risk Controls
Open or breaking into H ₂ S rich or potentially H ₂ S rich equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal H₂S Gas Monitor • Radio • “Buddy” with a radio • Supplied-air respirator • Barrier tape - as per “<i>USE OF DANGER TAGS AND BARRIER TAPE</i>” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Document Number: 4000-ZSD-SMSAFESA-008668” section 4 – Green Tape (breathing air required)</i>
High H ₂ S Exposure Risk Activities specific to Operation work activities	High H ₂ S Exposure Risk Controls specific to Operator activities
Operators sampling potentially rich H ₂ S streams (Refer to Appendix B)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal H₂S Gas Monitor • Radio • “Buddy” with a radio • Supplied-air respirator • Barrier tape - as per “<i>USE OF DANGER TAGS AND BARRIER TAPE</i>” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Document Number: 4000-ZSD-SMSAFESA-008668” section 4 – Green Tape (breathing air required)</i> <p>NOTE: Barricade tape is not required for sampling if the area has been cleared of unauthorized personnel.</p>

H₂S Barricading Requirements

- Green barricade tape printed with “**Breathing Air Required**” will be used
- Proper barricading is the responsibility of the Unit Operator or contractor performing the work or the person who recognizes the hazard
- Barricading should be installed to encircle the immediate area to prevent entry
- At a minimum, barrier tape shall have a 20’ radius from the work activity location
- Elevated areas affected by H₂S will also require barricading on an equal level to prevent exposure
- All points of possible entry into these areas must be considered so that entry is prevented by any personnel inadvertently entering the area

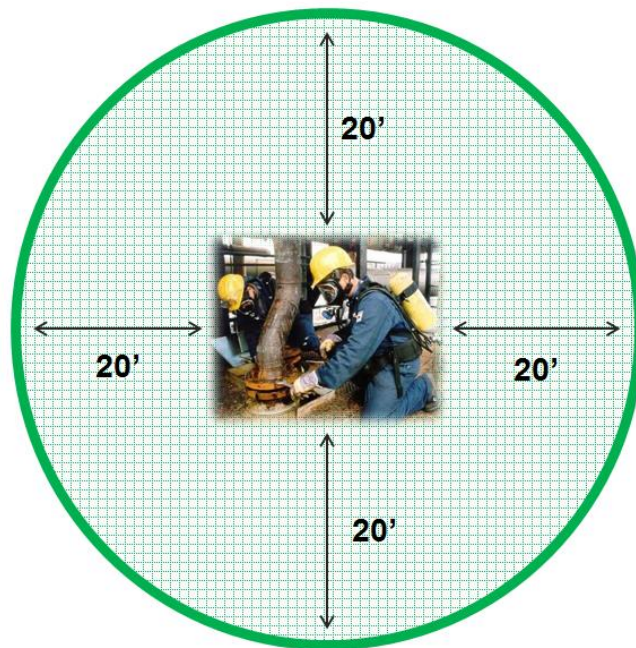


Figure 1 – Minimum Barricade Radius

RESPONSE TO AN H₂S ALARM

If a personal or fixed alarm sounds, workers will stop work, assess the wind direction and leave the area in a safe direction. Workers must contact Operations by radio immediately once in a safe location.

In either case, Operations will respond to the alarm and determine when it is safe to re-enter the area or resume work.

TRAINING

All workers must be trained in the hazards of H₂S and control measures.

REFERENCES

[Personal Protective Equipment Standard](#)

[Respiratory Protection Standard](#)

END OF STANDARD

REVISION LOG				
Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Revision	Section	Comments	Editor (Name)
12/16/2007	Original	All	This new H ₂ S Standard replaces previous document Standing Order # 2.007 (Buddy System)	
03/01/2011	1	All	Re-defined High H ₂ S Areas and modified Task Risk / Risk Control Matrix	
03/04/2011	2	Risk Controls	Changes to Low and High Risk Maintenance Activities to clarify radio requirements	
06/27/2012	3	All	Updated format, but content was NOT altered	
07/24/2013	-	Header	Document Owner & Contact Updated. NO content change.	L. Lebert
02/10/2014	4	Risk Controls Appendix A	Personal H ₂ S Monitor not required while wearing fresh air Revised risk controls for low risk SIM activities Added Appendix A – Low Risk SIM Activities	D. Allen
09/05/2014	5	Buddy Role	Revised Buddy requirements for work in the main flare area	D. Allen
05/24/2018	6	H ₂ S risk controls, Buddy Role, Appendix	Revised risk controls for H ₂ S areas Low H ₂ S exposure risk activities table added Revised Buddy requirements for work in the main flare area Added breathing tape radius best practice	T. Richard
10/01/2019	7	Document Contact	Reassigned from Safety Advisor to Occupational Hygienist	M. Chipman
		Risk Controls, Table 1, Table 2	Changed all personal H ₂ S monitor requirements to reflect new SPS monitors	
		References	Removed reference to procedure for old personal H ₂ S monitors Removed reference to (obsolete) H ₂ S High Risk Sample Points document Added reference to PPE standard	
		H ₂ S Barricading Requirements	Added additional requirements listed in (former) Appendix – including Figure 1	
		Appendix A Appendix C	Separated (former) combined appendix information into individual topic-specific appendices	
		Appendix B	Added High H ₂ S Exposure Risk Sample Points list as appendix to standard	

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General Work Activity

- Compressor performance data acquisition
- Engineering field checks
- Erecting or removing scaffold
- Fin fan belt changes
- Fin fan motor changes
- Garbage collection
- General clean up using manual tools (i.e., broom)
- Installation of piping, excluding process tie-in
- Installation of tubing, excluding process tie-in
- Installing insulation
- Lighting repairs
- Painting
- Planning assessments
- Removing insulation (not removing to verify if process equipment is leaking)
- Routine Air Conditioning Maintenance
- Routine Lighting Checks
- Routine Servicing of Overhead Lift Devices
- Routine Steam Trap / Tracing Maintenance
- Running fire hoses – staging in place only, not making connections
- Safety inspections
- Salt spreading
- Sketches / measuring (not requiring fall protection)
- Snow removal using manual tools
- Structural steel repairs
- Tours
- Utility (water, air, steam, condensate) repair activity to valves, piping, equipment
- Vibration monitoring of equipment
- Visual inspections
- Water distribution
- X-rays

Analyzer Overhauls and Repair Work

- Includes work taking place in monitored shacks where process has been isolated
- Analyzer troubleshooting, electrical and sample systems
- Tail Gas analyzers, CEMS stack analyzer, pH analyzers, etc...

Field Instrumentation

- Control valve inspections, evaluations and testing
- Control loop troubleshooting
- Any temperature loop validation, inspection, installation, repairs



APPENDIX A LOW H₂S EXPOSURE RISK ACTIVITIES

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Field wiring checks and repairs

- Air tubing repairs and installations
- Radar level troubleshooting
- Safety shower repairs
- Junction box validations
- Non-intrusive testing

Routine non-intrusive Analyzer PMs

- Production Analyzers
- Environmental Analyzers
- Health and Safety Analyzers (Field H₂S, HC and O₂ detectors included)
- Moving cylinder gases to and from analyzer racks

Systems – PLC racks / Vibration Monitoring

- Works involves non-intrusive troubleshooting
- Validation of programming and testing
- Compressor probes, proximeters, vibration card racks
- Draining knock out vessels to closed sewer systems
- Opening isolation valves between H₂S rich systems within a closed system and equipment that has been returned from having had maintenance performed on that equipment
- Operating systems not containing H₂S
- Operating utilities
- Visual inspections

Process Engineering has provided a list of sample points that are deemed high risk due to potential for H₂S exposure and, therefore, require the use of supplied-air respiratory protection during sample collection.

It is understood that this list is based on normal operating conditions. Process abnormalities may lead to the requirement for supplied-air respiratory protection for other sample points as well. In the absence of normal operating conditions, each sample point will have to be evaluated with the risks assessed and the appropriate controls identified.

- 12SPT-016: Stabilizer Reflux
- 18SPT-001: Absorber Overhead
- SPT @ 18FS02
- 21SPT-012: Plant 2 SWS Charge
- 21SPT-014: Plant 1 Flare Gas
- 21SPT-015: Plant 2 Flare Gas
- 22SPT-010: Sep Off Gas
- 25SPT-016: Vacuum Overhead water
- 31SPT-002 (31MGOR001): Reactor Effluent from 31R001
- 31SPT-003 (31GASRYHC): Recycle Compressor Gas
- 31SPT-010: From 31C002
- 31SPT-014 (31MGOR002): Reactor Effluent from 31R002
- 31SPT-055: Recycle Gas Compressor Quench Gas
- 31SPT-150: 31V102 Liquid Sample
- 31SPT-153: CLPS Liquid to Preflash Tower
- 31SPT-154: CLPS Vapour to Amine Treating
- 32SPT-001: Fuel Gas from Preflash Overhead
- 32SPT-149: Preflash Gas to Amine Contactor
- 34SPT-002: Acid Gas from 34V013
- 34SPT-010: Stripper Reflux
- 34SPT-011: Acid Gas
- 34SPT-013: LP Offgas
- 41SPT-002: Combined Gas to DHT
- 41SPT-003: CHPS Offgas
- 44SPT-001: Sour Gas Feed
- 44SPT-008: Sour Water Feed to Tank
- 44SPT-013: Sour Water to SW Stripper
- 44SPT-014: Sour Water Acid Gas to SRU
- 44SPT-015: SWS Pumparound

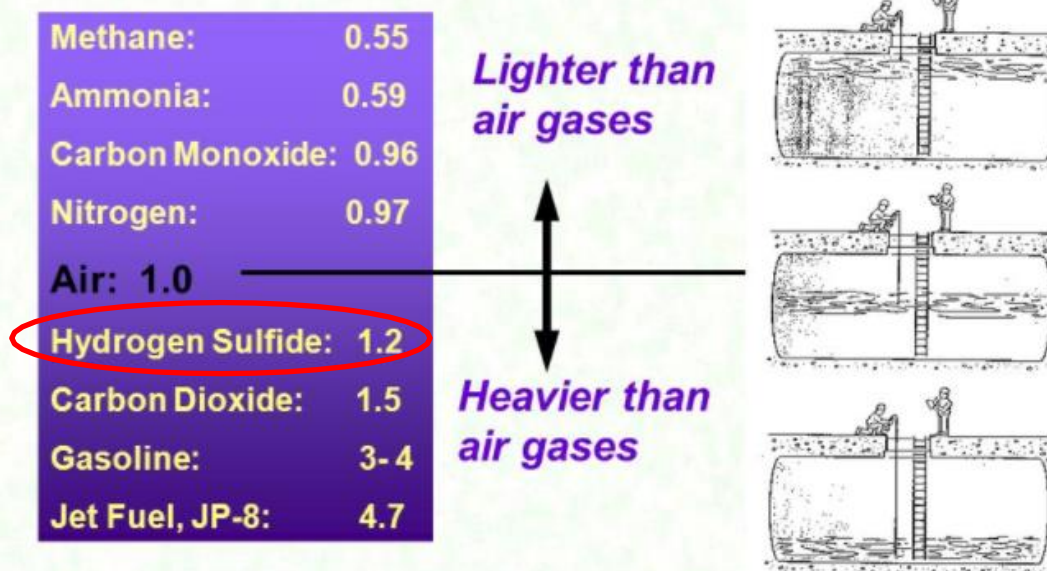
Hydrogen sulfide (H₂S), a colourless gas with the smell of rotten eggs and is dangerously reactive with strong acids and oxidizing materials. It can be found (in the oil and gas industry) in wellheads, well bores, piping systems, vessels, pipelines, tanks, production facilities, pits and low spots, confined or enclosed spaces, shacks or buildings, bermed or diked areas. It can be released from scales on metallic surfaces. It is soluble in water and hydrocarbon liquids and can be released from solution by agitation, pressure reduction and heat. As a component in a gas stream lighter than air it may rise and not fall even though it is slightly heavier than air. Over time it will eventually fall.

The following safety and health hazards may occur:

- Presence of H₂S gas released from gas or liquid streams (toxic hazard).
- Formation of explosive gas-air mixtures (explosive hazard).
- Presence of hydrocarbon gases or vapour (intoxication hazard).
- Lack of oxygen through displacement of air by hydrocarbon (asphyxiation).
- Presence of hydrocarbon gases or vapours – hydrocarbons with low levels of hydrogen Sulfide can have intoxicating effects before hydrogen sulfide concentrations reach toxic levels.

Air Monitoring – Check All Levels

Different gases can be found at different levels



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The following individuals have approved and signed this document.

UserName: Todd Murray (toddmurray)

Title: Mgr EH&S Sarnia Refinery

Date: Sunday, 06 October 2019, 01:35 PM Mountain Time

Meaning:

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