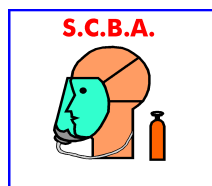




Safety Tips

A five-minute training series for PCOs.



Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S)



Hydrogen Sulfide is an invisible, explosive, flammable and deadly gas that comes from several sources. Common sources are:

- Sewers & Sewage
- Land Fills
- Oil & Gas Operations
- Waste Water Treatment Plants
- Mining Facilities
- Public Utilities

Hydrogen Sulfide is the result of decaying organic matter. H₂S poisoning is the leading cause of deaths in the workplace. Companies that produce H₂S as a byproduct of their operations are required to monitor and engineer controls to prevent H₂S overexposure. However, in many outdoor work areas, H₂S presence is not necessarily known.

Hydrogen Sulfide presents an inhalation hazard and is not absorbed through the skin. Due to H₂S's pungent odor (rotten eggs), your nose is your best indicator to the presence of this gas. However, H₂S will rapidly deaden your sense of smell as it permeates your nose. If you smell such an odor, you should seek safety at a distance from the source by traveling upwind or uphill from the smell. **Ideally, leave the area immediately.**

H₂S is highly flammable and has a flash point of 500°. A cigarette tip burns at 1400°. Therefore, if you smell this odor, **DO NOT SMOKE** in the area.

Should you become exposed to any Hydrogen Sulfide fumes, do not drink any alcohol within 24 hours. Alcohol can have a drastic impact on the body's ability to process and throw off any H₂S that has entered the body through breathing.

REPORT ALL H₂S EXPOSURES TO YOUR MANAGER IMMEDIATELY.