

Hydrogen Sulfide (H2S) Safety

What is H2S?

- Colorless gas with a strong odor of rotten eggs that exists naturally in crude oil
- Sense of smell becomes rapidly fatigued within 2-5 minutes, will not warn of continuous presence
- Can cause an Oxygen Deficient Environment

Exposure routes: inhalation and eye contact

Symptoms: Eye irritation, respiratory irritation, dizziness, headache, coma, convulsions

Your protective mask is very effective against Hydrogen Sulfide

Possible H2S Hazard Situations:

- Damaged/Destroyed Oil Well
- Leak along Pipeline or at Refinery
- Any location where there is standing/collected crude oil

Hazard Area could extend 1-5 km downwind from source

Some units and oil teams are issued H2S sensors to detect presence/ concentration

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Reacting to H2S

Without H2S Detector:

Soldiers experience rotten egg smell with eye irritation
Mask and move out of area (crosswind direction away from likely source)

Unmask when clear of area where odor / effects began
Report H2S effects to higher using H2S Report

With H2S Detector:

Soldiers experience rotten egg smell with eye irritation
Execute auto-masking upon receiving 20 ppm alarm
Record readings/ location and report to higher
At 50 ppm reading, report to higher and BPT initiate movement out of area

Request unmasking from higher after readings drop to 10 ppm

Vicinity Uncapped Wells / Damaged Oil Infrastructure

Maintain Minimum Safe Distance (MSD) of 1 km
If experience symptoms, follow Auto-masking procedures and report location of hazard

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H2S Report Format

Line	Required Info
B	Grid location where H2S hazard encountered
C	Direction (in degrees) from observer to H2S hazard
D	DTG when H2S encountered
E	DTG when H2S exited (exposure time)
F	Grid location of H2S release (actual/estimate)
G	Describe H2S release source (eg damaged oil well, broken pipeline)
H	H2S concentration / effects (readings in ppm, physical symptoms)

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