

Immediate Response to Personal Gas Monitor Alarms

Description

On May 1, 2026, while unloading sour water into the sump, workers received high CO and H₂S readings on their personal gas monitors. Elevated gas levels were detected during the operation, triggering alarm conditions and indicating a potential exposure hazard.

Immediate Actions

- The incident was not reported immediately.

Findings

- No Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) was worn during offloading, as it was considered a closed system.
- While disconnecting the discharge hose, personal gas monitors alarmed.
- During previous offloading of sour water, personnel gas monitors had alarmed frequently. Employees normalized this as part of the task and did not report the alarms.
- Procedures had not been reviewed or revised since January 2025.
- The discharge/offload valve actuator rod was slightly bent, preventing the valve from fully seating.
 - The crew was aware the equipment was defective, but did not notify the appropriate CEDA leader.
- The customer indicated that their employee was exposed to over 100 ppm of H₂S.

Preventative Actions

- A review of Safety Alerts “H₂S Exposure Incidents” 13352 and 13261 was completed.
- The unit was taken out of service to have the valve replaced.
- A full review of all relevant procedures was conducted to confirm accuracy, clarity, and alignment with current operational practices.
 - CEDA controlled procedures will also be reviewed.
- The incident was reviewed with all employees, reinforcing the importance of immediately responding to personal gas monitor alarms in an H₂S environment, as they provide early warning of potentially life-threatening exposure. All alarms must be reported to supervision to ensure proper investigation and follow-up.

Human and Organizational Performance (HOP) Considerations

Context Influences Behavior:

The documentation used did not reflect the scope of work being performed, and the equipment involved was defective. Leaders can support employees by verifying procedures align with the actual scope of work during field inspections and by reinforcing the importance of completing the appropriate equipment checklists prior to executing work.

Learning and Improving are Vital:

When equipment is defective or gas monitor alarms activate, employees must stop work, respond appropriately to the hazard, and notify their leader prior to continuing the task.

