

Responding to Gas Alarms

Since May 2026, the following incidents have been reported involving actual or potential exposure to hazardous atmospheres where employees did not respond appropriately to gas alarms:

- **Incident 14720 (August 2026)** – An employee was exposed to an unknown source of carbon monoxide (CO) while performing vacuum support activities on a client site. Initial investigation findings indicate that several crew members' personal gas monitors had alarmed over multiple shifts; however, the alarms were ignored and not reported. The exposed employee required first aid treatment.
- **Incident 14621 (June 2026)** – While employees were transferring hydrochloric acid into a tank, the building's fixed-gas monitor detected hydrogen sulphide (H₂S), triggering an alarm. Employees silenced the alarm, believing it was related to previous faulty alarms, and continued working until they were instructed to evacuate. No injuries occurred.
- **Incident 14558 (May 2026)** – While unloading sour water into a sump, employees' personal gas monitors alarmed for CO and H₂S. Employees continued to work and did not report the alarm. No injuries occurred.

These incidents identify a concerning trend – employees continuing to work despite gas monitors alarming.

Gas monitors are designed to provide an early warning of potentially hazardous atmospheric conditions. Continuing to work after an alarm, even for a short period, could result in serious injury or fatality.

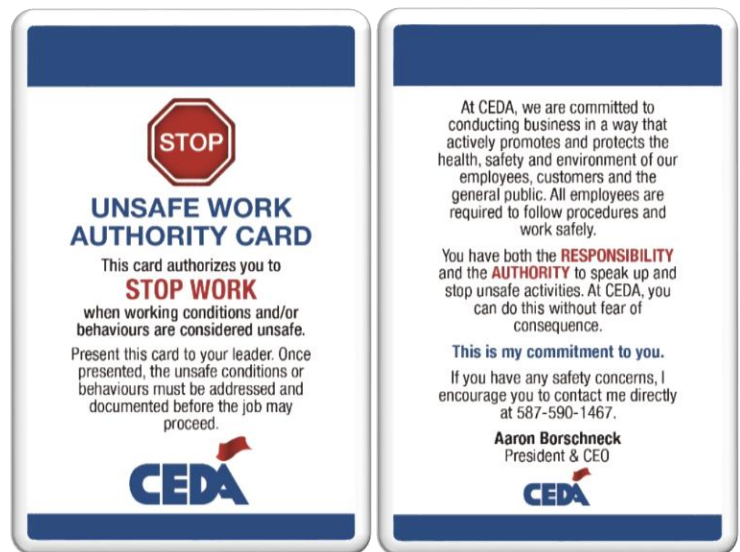
Employees should never assume an alarm is a false alarm or that it is safe to continue working because you do not notice anything unusual.

Required Response to Gas Alarms

If a personal or fixed gas monitor alarms, employee(s) must:

- Stop work immediately, as per CEDA's Stopping Unsafe Work Practice.
- Evacuate the work area.
- Report the alarm to your supervisor and client (if applicable) to determine next steps (i.e. if personnel require medical assessment and/or if site-specific emergency response plan requires activation)

All alarms must be investigated to determine if there was an exposure to atmospheric hazards and whether corrective action is required before returning to work.



For more information, refer to CEDA's [Hydrogen Sulphide Practice](#), [Stopping Unsafe Work Practice](#), and [Testing for Hazardous Atmospheres Guidance Document](#).