

IMPACTS OF HYDROGEN SULFIDE

Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S):



is a colorless gas commonly known for its pungent “rotten egg” smell at low concentrations.



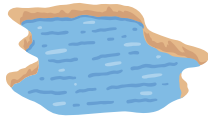
occurs naturally in our atmosphere, and is an industrial air pollutant that’s very flammable and toxic at high concentrations.

Where does Hydrogen Sulfide come from?

Trace amounts of hydrogen sulfide come from natural sources such as



volcanoes



stagnant bodies of water



sulfur springs



undersea vents

Other Producers:



Human sewage, sewage treatment plants, and landfills



Industrial and manufacturing processes (ie. paper/oil mills) and gas extraction



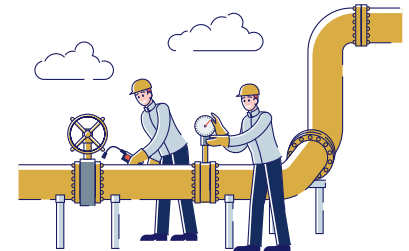
Concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) as a by-product of manure pits or hog waste “lagoons”

How can I be exposed to Hydrogen Sulfide?

We inhale hydrogen sulfide from polluted air.



People who live or work in areas with heavy traffic or near industrial facilities, paper mills, oil and gas refineries, landfills, waste treatment plants, or farms with waste storage pits face higher exposure.



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Health Effects of Hydrogen Sulfide Exposure:

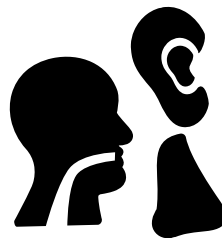
While low levels of hydrogen sulfide are typically safe, breathing in high concentrations of hydrogen sulfide can be extremely hazardous to our health:



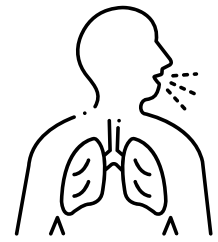
**Headaches,
poor memory,
and balance
problems**



**Fatigue
or less
energy**



**Irritation of
eyes, nose, and
throat**



**Difficulty breathing
for people with
underlying lung
diseases (i.e., asthma)**

In confined spaces (i.e., working in waste treatment facilities, oil refineries, or CAFOs), heavy H₂S exposure can even cause loss of consciousness or death.

How can I Protect Myself and my Loved Ones from H₂S exposure?

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) sets an acceptable ceiling limit of 20 ppm for hydrogen sulfide in the workplace. This exposure limit shouldn't exceed 15 minutes at any time during the workday.

Air monitoring or wearing a personal H₂S detector (for occupational workers).



Individuals and families living near CAFOs or other industrial-scale agricultural sites should keep their distance from “lagoons” or liquid waste storage areas where high concentrations of H₂S are found.