

## H<sub>2</sub>S Awareness: When Rotten Eggs Lead to Shell Shock

H<sub>2</sub>S, or Hydrogen Sulphide, is a highly toxic natural gas that is produced or used in industrial processes.

While usually inhaled, H<sub>2</sub>S can enter the bloodstream through an open wound. Once in the body, H<sub>2</sub>S shuts down the brain's respiratory control centre, stopping breathing. The more H<sub>2</sub>S is present, the more quickly it affects you.

Risk increases when entering confined or low spaces (i.e. a ditch), agitating geological materials, removing scale or when there is a decrease in pressure or an increase in temperature. Locations you can expect a leak or release of H<sub>2</sub>S include areas near valves, pipe joints, sample points, drain valves, seals, flanges, relief valves or PSVs, and vents.

People become aware of H<sub>2</sub>S when they smell rotten eggs. This smell is sometimes mistakenly attributed to elemental sulphur or sulphur dioxide. Unfortunately, relying on your nose to protect you is not enough: by 100PPM, H<sub>2</sub>S can completely deaden the sense of smell. This is when H<sub>2</sub>S is the most dangerous.

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Gas detectors at Oil Sands *should* pick up H<sub>2</sub>S. But if they don't, and you believe there is a problem, sound the alarm! Initiate Area Emergency Response Procedures, contact the nearest Suncor worker, or go to the Control Room/Permit Centre.

Blue strobe lights flash when the concentration of H<sub>2</sub>S and air reaches 10 PPM (Parts Per Million). An audible alarm joins the strobe lights when the concentration reaches 15 PPM.

So...when blue strobe lights begin to flash:

- Secure your work
- Proceed cross-wind to the nearest Emergency Assembly Point
- Don't run
- Don't stop to help a fallen co-worker
- Report in immediately upon reaching the assembly point

By following these simple steps, you reduce the need to use resources to account for you that could be used helping those who really need it. You can save your life and that of a friend by letting the rescuers do their jobs.

### H<sub>2</sub>S Characteristics

- heavier than air
- colourless
- gaseous
- Sour, *rotten egg* smell
- flammable
- soluble in most liquids

Even mild exposure warrants attention. If you or a co-worker becomes dizzy, feels nauseous or vomits, gets a headache, or experiences vision disruption, treatment must be sought in order to prevent serious, life threatening health problems such as pulmonary oedema (water on the lungs). A nearby supervisor or Suncor employee should be alerted, and the evacuation steps above followed.

H<sub>2</sub>S is a natural part of life, but it doesn't have to be a natural disaster. Be aware, and breathe safe! ■

Source: Suncor H<sub>2</sub>S Training Presentation, 2007

## HR Minute: The Benefits of Being Part of the Team

Transfield Asset Management Services' non-union staff employees should be aware of the following information regarding the benefits associated with being a Transfield Asset Management Services employee:

### Group Benefits Plan

Our Staff Group Benefits plan has been established with Manulife Financial. Salaried employees are provided with extended health care, dental, life and disability insurance coverage. The premiums for these benefits are cost shared between the company and the employee. We also provides a \$250/year health care spending account. Please note: regardless of the wait for your personal Benefit Cards, your plan coverage is effective your date of hire. Please hold on to all receipts of expenses incurred until such time as you receive your Benefit Cards. Benefits Booklets and Brochures are available from your Human Resources Coordinator.

### Employee Assistance Program

Our Employee Assistance Program through Shepell.fgi is up and running and available to all Staff. Shepell.fgi offers a wide variety of

assistance and counselling programs from financial to legal advice. Please feel free to peruse the website at [www.shepellfgi.com](http://www.shepellfgi.com).

### Coming Soon

We are also in the final stages of completing our Pension Plan through Standard Life with information/enrolment sessions provided by Standard Life planned for late October. Employees will be enrolled in a Defined Contribution Registered Pension Plan (DC-RPP) upon commencement of employment. The company contributes an amount equal to five per cent (5%) of an employee's annual base salary. These contributions are vested following two (2) years of continuous service with the company and/or any of its affiliates or subsidiaries. A voluntary RRSP program through Standard Life will also be made available to employees. Dates and times of enrolment sessions will be communicated shortly.

Information on craft employee benefits and the employee family assistance program is available from your local union hall. ■

## Supporting

### United Way of Fort McMurray

Transfield Asset Management Services is thrilled to be conducting our first United Way campaign. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 through employees, and the company will match each donation dollar for dollar!

Throughout October we'll be providing employees with information about the issues United Way addresses, as well as volunteer and tour activities. Make Fort McMurray a better place to live and work by helping us reach our goal.

You are now able to make a gift through payroll deduction, beginning in January of 2008. Pledge forms are available through your supervisor or by contacting Dawn Pike at: [pikeda@tam-services.com](mailto:pikeda@tam-services.com)

Gifts over \$300 will be entered into a draw for a \$1,000 shopping spree\* at West Edmonton Mall or Chinook Centre.

\* Includes travel expenses up to \$500



## SafetyMoment

Winter is coming, but before the ice and snow arrive, winter driving rules begin.

Defensive driving practices will help keep you safe. These include:

- Treat a wet road as if it is icy
- Remember, breaking hard is not an option
- The posted speed limit may not be right for the conditions
- Stay two car lengths behind the traveller in front of you
- Be cautious of travellers on either side
- Watch for black ice and wildlife

Drivers new to Fort McMurray are encouraged to take the winter driving course at Keyano College.

Remember, safety begins when you leave home. Make travelling to and from work as safe as the rest of your day!