Oil and gas safety moment for well site crews

29 CFR 1910.1200, 1910.119

Date _____ Trainer _____ Location _____

Opening question

If a gas alarm went off on this location right now, would everyone here know which way to go and where to meet?

Why it matters

Well sites put flammable gas and liquids, possible toxic gas like hydrogen sulfide, high pressure, heavy equipment and several crews in one small area. Conditions can change fast, and one missed step can lead to a fire, an explosion or a toxic release. Knowing the hazards and looking out for each other is how everyone gets home.

Key points

1. **Know the chemicals on location**
   Fuel, crude oil, treating chemicals and drilling fluid additives can all be hazardous. Your employer must keep a safety data sheet for each hazardous chemical in the workplace, readily accessible during each work shift (29 CFR 1910.1200(g)(8)). If your crew travels between well sites during a shift, the sheets may be kept at the primary workplace facility, but your employer must make sure you can get the information immediately in an emergency.
   29 CFR 1910.1200(g)(9)

2. **Read the label before you open it**
   With limited exceptions, each container of hazardous chemicals on location must be labeled, tagged or marked with at least the product identifier and general information about its hazards. Labels on incoming containers must not be removed or defaced unless the container is immediately marked with the required information (29 CFR 1910.1200(f)(9)). If you find an unlabeled drum, tote or bottle, do not guess what is inside. Stop and ask.
   29 CFR 1910.1200(f)(6)

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3 Trust your monitor, not your nose

Your hazard communication training must include the methods and observations used to detect a chemical release, such as employer monitoring, continuous monitoring devices and the look or odor of a chemical being released. Wear your personal gas monitor where required, check it the way you were trained and know what each alarm means. Some gases, like hydrogen sulfide, can dull your sense of smell, so never use your nose to decide an area is safe.

29 CFR 1910.1200(h)(3)(i)

4 Know your way out

Before work starts, find the wind sock, the muster point and more than one way off location. If an alarm sounds or you see or smell a release, stop work, move upwind or crosswind away from the source and go to the muster point for a head count. Never go back in after someone unless you are trained and equipped for rescue, or you may become the next victim.

5 Many crews, one location

A well site can have the operator, a drilling or service contractor and truck drivers all working at once. When an employer's hazardous chemicals could expose another employer's workers, its written hazard communication program must include how it will give the other employers access to safety data sheets and tell them about needed precautions and the labeling system used. Go to the site orientation and ask what the other crews near you are doing.

29 CFR 1910.1200(e)(2)

6 Control ignition and stop when things change

Flammable gas and vapors can travel and find an ignition source, so follow the site rules for phones, lighters, vehicles and hot work permits. If something changes, like a new chemical, a pressure reading that looks wrong or a strange smell, stop and ask before you keep going. Your employer must give you information and training whenever a new chemical hazard you have not been trained about is introduced into your work area.

29 CFR 1910.1200(h)(1)

Scenario

Picture this: A service crew arrives on a production location to work on a tank battery. The pumper mentions that one tank hatch has been leaking, and a worker climbs up to check it without a gas monitor. Another crew is welding on a line nearby, and nobody has talked about what each crew is doing. What should happen before anyone climbs a tank, opens a hatch or strikes an arc?

Crew discussion

1. Where are the wind sock and muster point on today's location?
2. Which chemicals are on this location, and where are their safety data sheets?
3. What does each alarm on your gas monitor mean, and what do you do when it goes off?
4. How do we find out what other crews on location are doing near us?

Bottom line

Know your chemicals, trust your monitor, know your way out and talk to every crew on location.

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Sign-in sheet / Hoja de asistencia

Topic / Tema: Oil and gas well site safety / Seguridad en pozos de petróleo y gas

Date / Fecha: _____

Trainer / Instructor: _____ Location / Lugar: _____ Company / Empresa: _____

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