



HSC Safety Tips No. (19)

1. Low concentrations of hydrogen sulfide (H_2S) irritate the eyes, nose, throat and the respiratory system (e.g. burning/tearing of eyes, cough, shortness of breath). Repeated or prolonged exposures may cause eye inflammation, headache, fatigue, irritability, insomnia, digestive disturbances and weight loss. High concentrations may cause shock, convulsions, inability to breathe, extremely rapid unconsciousness, coma and death. **THUS**, full facepiece respirators **SHOULD** be worn all the time while working with H_2S . If half-mask respirators are used, tight fitting goggles **MUST**, also, be worn.
2. Before entering areas where H_2S may be present, air **MUST** be tested for both the presence and the concentration of the gas using H_2S detector tubes or a multigas meter.
3. If H_2S is found to be present in a confined space, the space/area **MUST** be ventilated continually to remove the gas.
4. If H_2S levels are below 100 parts per million (ppm), an air-purifying respirator may be used assuming appropriate H_2S filter cartridge is used.
5. Contact with liquid H_2S causes frostbite. If clothing becomes wet with the liquid, **AVOID** ignition sources, **REMOVE** the clothing, and **ISOLATE** it in a safe area to allow the liquid to evaporate.

