

California

Regulations for Oil and Gas Operations in H₂S Areas

1. Are there any devices/alarms required of operators that have H₂S on location, and if so, at what ppm H₂S are they required to be set?

No.

2. Are there any postings required of operators that have H₂S on location, and if so, under what circumstances?

No.

3. How are facilities at which H₂S is present tracked?

These facilities are not tracked.

4. What level or levels of H₂S are considered actionable and under what circumstances?

Not defined in current regulation.

5. Are any additional standards for rules implemented for H₂S other than the following?
 - a. ANSI- American Nation Standards Institute.
 - b. API – American Petroleum Institute.
 - c. EPA – Environmental Protection Agency.

No.

6. Does your state have any specific H₂S safety regulations? If so, please list them below.

No.

7. What are the purposes of the H₂S regulations?

- a. Public safety
- b. Worker safety
- c. Other: both (a) and (b)

Safety Procedures for Field Inspectors

8. What type of training is required for Field Inspectors?

H₂S Safety for oil and gas workers is conducted through Safety Skills online training platform. Employees, who successfully complete this course, demonstrate knowledge of the sources of hydrogen sulfide, its physical and chemical properties, effects on the body, hydrogen sulfide exposure controls, and exposure response. This course is designed for oil and gas industry employees who, during their regular work duties, may come in contact with hydrogen sulfide gas. This course is intended to assist the employer in meeting OSHA and ANSI requirements on hydrogen sulfide safety training.

9. Are certifications required for Field Inspectors?

Yes, annual training required.

10. Do you have an H₂S safety specialist, and if so, what is the specialist's level of expertise?

Department of Conservation has a Health and Safety Officer on staff.

11. Do state inspectors check H₂S levels, or do they require operators to check?

No. However, all field inspectors wear CalGEM-issued H₂S monitors during field inspections.

12. If state inspectors check H₂S levels, what are the required procedures/protocols for checking to determine H₂S levels?

State inspectors do not check for H₂S levels other than their personal H₂S monitors. Staff are instructed to evacuate an area immediately if alarms sound.

13. How often are readings required to be made? By whom? How/who keeps up with those readings?

Field inspectors' personal H₂S meters read ambient air H₂S concentrations continuously. Other than that, no other readings are collected or required.

14. Where are Field Inspectors most likely to check for H₂S?

- a. Top of stock tanks
- b. Wellheads
- c. Gas streams
- d. Other: _____
- e. Not applicable. Inspector's personal monitor only checks breathing zone H₂S concentrations.

15. How do Field Inspectors respond to an H₂S complaint? (Please include in the response information on any requirements about when the Field Inspector must be accompanied by another person.)

Initially, we inform the caller to call 911 or local fire department upon receipt of a H₂S complaint. A field visit is only performed once the area is determined to be safe by the local fire department.

16. Are inspectors required to wear H₂S monitors? If so, what type of equipment?

Yes. Honeywell BW clip H₂S two-year monitor.