



HELICOPTER SAFETY ADVISORY CONFERENCE-RECOMMENDED PRACTICE

HYDROGEN SULFIDE GAS HELIDECK / HELIPORT OPERATIONAL HAZARD WARNING(S) / PROCEDURE(S)

Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S) GAS: Hydrogen Sulfide gas in higher concentrations (300-500 ppm) can cause loss of consciousness within a few seconds and presents a hazard to pilots on/near offshore helidecks. When operating in offshore areas that have been identified to have concentrations of Hydrogen Sulfide gas, the following practice is recommended.

1. **Pilots:**

- (a). Ensure approved protective air packs are available for emergency use by the crew on the helicopter.
- (b). If shutdown on a helideck, request the supervisor in charge provide a briefing on location of protective equipment and safety procedures.
- (c). If while flying near a helideck and the visual red beacon alarm is observed or an unusually strong odor of "rotten eggs" is detected, immediately don the protective air pack, exit to an area upwind, and notify the suspected source field of the hazard.

2. **Oil Field Supervisors:**

- (a). If presence of Hydrogen Sulfide is detected, **a red rotating beacon** or red high intensity strobe light adjacent to the primary helideck stairwell or wind indicator on the structure should be turned on to provide visual warning of hazard. If the beacon is to be located near the stairwell, the Louisiana "Offshore Heliport Design Guide" should be reviewed to ensure proper clearance on the helideck.
- (b). Notify nearby helicopter operators and bases of the hazard and advise when hazard is cleared.
- (c). Provide a safety briefing to include location of protective equipment to all arriving personnel.
- (d). Wind socks or indicator should be clearly visible to provide upwind indication for the pilot.