

MANURE GAS IS DANGEROUS

It Can Be Lethal In Seconds!

Manure gases are readily and rapidly generated by the microorganisms found in raw manure. Covered manure storage and collection pits, covered lagoons, upright storage tanks and tanker spreaders are examples of places where manure gases can accumulate to deadly levels.

Safe practices and safety training are vital for all who work with manure handling systems. Protect yourself and others from injury or death by learning about the dangers of manure gas.

The National Safety Council offers the following explanation of the four main types of gas which are found in “manure gas”:

Manure Pit Gas Hazards

A confined-space hazard that often claims multiple lives before anyone realizes there is a danger is manure gas. Manure pits can be oxygen-deficient, toxic and explosive. There are four gases in manure pits that are of primary concern.

Hydrogen Sulfide is a highly toxic gas that is heavier than air. It can cause dizziness, unconsciousness and death. At low concentrations it may smell like rotten eggs, but at higher concentrations it deadens the sense of smell so that no odor can be detected.

Carbon Dioxide is an odorless, tasteless gas that is heavier than air. It displaces the oxygen supply in the bloodstream, which can cause unconsciousness and death.

Ammonia is a gas that is lighter than air. It has a pungent smell and can irritate the eyes and respiratory tract. Ammonia also displaces oxygen in the bloodstream.

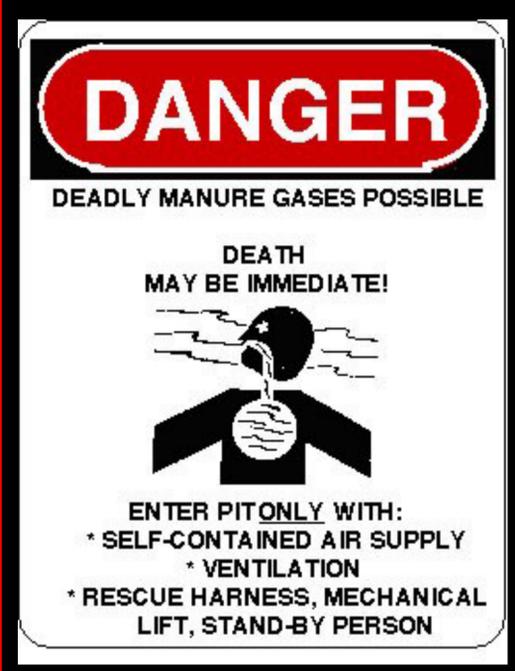
Methane is also a gas that is lighter than air. The primary hazard of methane gas is that it can create an explosive atmosphere. This gas also displaces oxygen.

Source: National Safety Council, 1121 Spring Lake Dr., Itasca, IL 60143 (630) 285-1121
<http://www.nsc.org/library/facts/agrigas.htm>

Further Information

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Example of a warning sign to place outside of a manure pit



Manure reception pit



Manure gases are most dangerous when they accumulate in confined spaces