

Hydrogen Sulfide Kills Rescuer

An Ohio worker who breathed hydrogen sulfide gas fell into a coma and died after rescuing a co-worker. Junior Cromer had worked at a Cincinnati plastics plant for nearly 30 years. He and a co-worker were exposed when hazardous H₂S leaked through a sewer line into their work area. Cromer apparently stayed behind to help a fellow worker who had been caught between two pipes. Nine workers besides Cromer and his workmate were evacuated by ambulance and helicopter to hospital, and most of them recovered within hours. The co-worker was released from hospital a couple of days later, but Cromer fell into a coma at the scene and never recovered.

Hydrogen sulfide is deadly in tiny amounts. Make sure you know the H₂S emergency procedures for your job and facility. Know where emergency air supplies are kept, and how to alert your co-workers at the first sign of trouble.

If you suspect H₂S contamination, get clear of the danger first. Report trapped workers to rescuers with breathing equipment. Otherwise you may end up being a casualty yourself.

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