



# SAFETY ALERT

## Sewer Gas Near Miss

### Incident

A crew attended a Sewage Pumping Station (SPS) in south Sheffield to undertake work on the telemetry. When they arrived on site and opened the SPS building doors over the dry well, they detected a slight odour of bad eggs and as a precaution checked for gas with the gas detector, this recorded slightly raised levels of (Hydrogen Sulphide) however these levels did not trigger a gas alarm.

They then moved outside to continue their work and remove the cover on the wet well, on doing so they immediately noticed a strong odour of bag eggs and so immediately moved away. One of the crew members held a gas detector above the opening at arm's length and the gas alarm immediately sounded.

The crew closed the wet well cover, vacated site and reported the incident to the client Yorkshire Water.

### Actions

When entering into or working on any sewer assets you need to be aware that there may well be gases accumulating within kiosks or buildings as well as below ground assets i.e. wet wells etc. It is advised you open any doors / covers to allow the ventilation before entering and to have your gas detector available.

Investigations have identified in this case that the gases were created due to an illegal discharge however we must be prepared when opening manhole covers generally and wet chambers in particular that there is a possibility of accumulations or gas under the covers that can surge out once the cover is lifted affecting workers if inhaled.

You must report any incident of a gas alarming to your supervisors.

Distribution	Operational teams	Y	Noticeboards	Y	General Staff	N	Signature required	Y
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