

Mobile Supplied Air Trailers on Site Guidance for Supervisors

INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Enform: Your Partner in Safety

Enform is the upstream oil and gas industry's advocate and leading resource for the continuous improvement of safety performance. Our mission is to help companies achieve their safety goals by providing practices, assessment, training, support, metrics and communication. Our vision is no work-related incidents or injuries in the Canadian upstream oil and gas industry.

An Industry Product

This document was developed by industry for industry. Working collaboratively, Enform works with the submitting organization representative in developing these documents to improve the industry's hazard awareness. Canada's leading oil and gas industry trade associations support the use of shared information to help companies of all sizes improve performance.

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Mobile Supplied Air Trailers are one of the many pieces of equipment that we use to manage the risk of exposure to H₂S. A Mobile Supplied Air Trailer may be brought onto a site when the risk assessment for H₂S exposure identifies the potential for H₂S exposure.

As a Supervisor, you are responsible for actively participating in the hazard management process.

- You have the unique ability to liaise between the planners and the workers
- You have the authority to receive chemical information from planners and the responsibility to pass that information on to workers
- You must know about potential hazards, and communicate these to your workers
- You need to ensure that the required hazard controls are complied with
- You need to know how to keep your workers safe.

Therefore when your job requires the need of a Mobile Supplied Air Trailer, planning and communication are critical. The decision to use of a mobile supplied air trailer raises some additional safety issues that you should consider.



By industry, for industry

The following list includes some of the things to consider if you are intending to use a Mobile Supplied Air Trailer.

Information & Communication

- Have you initiated a Pre-Job Meeting or Safety Meeting and included all necessary personnel?
- Have you organized and implemented on-site hazard assessments?
- Is everyone aware of the required hazard control procedures?
- Have you ensured communication flow between shifts/contractors?
- Have you ensured availability and worker knowledge of specific personal protective equipment (PPE), including supplied air equipment?
- What are the relevant safety protocols?
- Have you enforced the safety protocols for chemical control (H₂S)?

Use of Mobile Supplied Air Trailer

- Do you have the manufacturer's procedures for use of the Mobile Supplied Air Trailer?
- Do you need a manned or unmanned system?
- Who will man the Mobile Supplied Air Trailer (Bottle Watch)?
- Is the person functioning as Bottle Watch trained and competent?
- What is the available total volume of air?
- How many man-hours of air do you have?
- Where will you place the equipment
- Where will workers be on the system?
- Has an air analysis occurred on the breathing air system (Certificate of Analysis – Compressed Breathing Air), and has this occurred within the past 6 months?
- Has the equipment been inspected, and is it safe for use?
- Has "fit-testing" occurred for workers using the equipment (masks)?

Emergency Planning

- What are the emergency procedures for the site?
- Does everyone know what to do in an emergency?
- Do you have designated safe zones?
- Do you have a rescue plan?
- What are the alarms on your air system?
- Does everyone know what the alarms mean, and what to do if they activate?
- What is the availability of additional emergency equipment and resources?
- How long would it take to access & deploy additional emergency resources?

A Supervisor's Checklist

- Have you organized and implemented on-site hazard assessments?
- Are personnel on site trained and competent in the use of the Mobile Supplied Air Trailer and breathing apparatus?
- Do you need a manned or unmanned system?
- Do you know what your stored air volume is today? (man hours of air)
- Have you considered what additional resources you may require in the event of an emergency? Have you considered response times?
- If in BC, is the Mobile Supplied Air Trailer part of your Exposure Control Plan (ECP)?
- Have personnel on site been fit tested in the past 12 months?
- Have H₂S drills been conducted?
- Have you enforced safety protocols?
- Have you initiated and run a pre-job meeting that includes all necessary personnel?
- Have you ensured communication flow between shifts, contractors etc?
- Do you have a copy of the current breathing air analysis on site?

Further Reading and References.

1. [Controlling Chemical Hazards in the Oil and Gas Industry, A Program Development Guideline](#), Enform February 2012
2. [Occupational Health and Safety of Hydrogen Sulphide \(H₂S\)](#), Guide., Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, March 2003 (2003-0004)
3. [Workplace Health and Safety Bulletin](#); Respiratory Protective Equipment: An Employer's Guide, Government of Alberta, 2009 (PPE001-Breathing Apparatus)
4. Standard Z94.4-11; Selection, Use, and Care of Respirators., Canadian Standards Association (CSA), Rexdale, Ontario, 2011