

Water Well Drilling – Requirements Related to Hydrogen Sulfide

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Santa Barbara County Code Chapter 34A §11. - Hydrogen sulfide detection, reporting and mitigation.

(a) The licensed well drilling contractor performing the work on a well that will exceed one thousand two hundred feet in depth shall keep a properly maintained and calibrated hydrogen sulfide H₂S gas monitor at the drill site at all times during well drilling activities. The meter shall be in operation at all times during the well drilling activities. The meter shall be calibrated per manufacturer recommendations and at least prior to each new drilling operation or after each use. A calibration log shall be maintained and kept with the meter for inspection by administrative authority on request.

(b) If hydrogen sulfide gas is detected at levels exceeding 1.0 ppm for more than ten minutes or twenty ppm instantaneously, the licensed professional shall immediately contact Environmental Health Services, the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District and the California Office of Emergency Services as required by Section 2631 of Title 19 of the California Code of Regulations. If the release poses a potential threat to public health off-site or the release may violate Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) Rule 310 (Odorous Organic Sulfides) or Rule 303 (Nuisance) the licensed well drilling contractor or their designee shall immediately call 911 and report the release. If the release occurs outside normal business hours, the licensed professional driller or designee shall immediately report the release to 911.

(c) Mitigation measures shall be implemented immediately if the H₂S release exceeds limits established in subsection (b) or may violate APCD Rule 310 (levels at or beyond property line of 0.06 ppm or 0.03 ppm averaged over three minutes and ten minutes, respectively) or cause detectable odors at or beyond the fenceline (APCD Rule 303). Mitigation measures must result in prompt, effective and sustained reduction of H₂S to below levels on and off the property in accordance with subsections (a) and (b).

(d) Current phone numbers for the agencies specified in subsection (b) shall be maintained on the job site and all personnel are to be trained on appropriate emergency notification procedures.

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