



H S E

HEALTH SAFETY ENVIRONMENTAL



Alert #: SA 24-25

June 18, 2025

Gas Leak Prevention

NO GIS Employees were involved in the following incident.

On January 24, 2020, a massive explosion occurred at Watson Grinding and Manufacturing in Houston, Texas, due to a propylene gas leak. The blast killed two employees, damaged over four-hundred homes and businesses, and caused millions in property loss. Investigators later found that the flammable gas had leaked overnight and accumulated inside the building, igniting with catastrophic consequences.

The Watson Grinding incident is a sobering reminder of the consequences of unrecognized or unaddressed gas leaks. It underscores the importance of proactive hazard identification and mitigation.

Gas Leak Prevention Guidelines:

Inspection & Maintenance

- Conduct regular inspections of gas lines, valves, regulators, and fittings for signs of corrosion, wear, or leaks.
- Follow established preventive maintenance schedules diligently.

Leak Detection

- Install and routinely test gas detection systems that monitor for the presence of flammable gases.
- Ensure that alarms are functional, clearly audible, and trigger immediate response protocols.

Ventilation

- Maintain adequate ventilation in all areas where flammable gases are stored or used.
- Use explosion-proof or intrinsically safe equipment in areas with gas exposure risk.

Training & Awareness

- Provide training to all personnel on how to identify potential gas leaks, respond in emergencies, and shut down systems safely.
- Encourage a workplace culture where employees feel empowered to report any signs or suspicions of gas leaks.

Shutdown Procedures

- Clearly label and communicate emergency shutdown procedures.
- Ensure gas lines are properly isolated during off-hours, maintenance, or after operations are completed.

SAFETY ALERT

