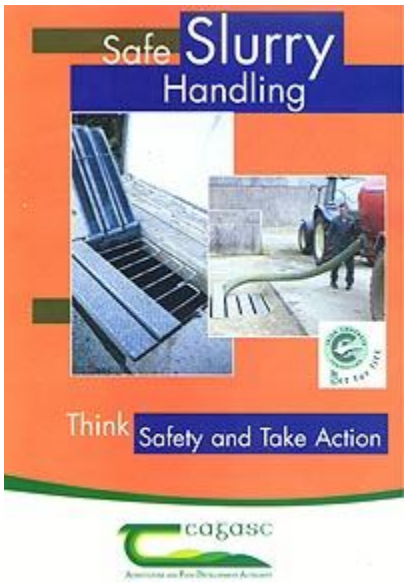
Safe Slurry Handling



Slurry - The Facts

- Toxic gases such as Hydrogen Sulphide (H_2S), Carbon Dioxide (CO_2), Ammonia and Methane are produced by bacteria during the decomposition of slurry.
- Hydrogen Sulphide gas is poisonous to humans and animals. It is
    - Fatal in seconds, one breath is enough
    - Heavier than air and is found at ground level in confined areas particularly on calm days,
    - Smells like rotten eggs, but high concentrations can't be smelled,
- Gas release is greatest
    - when the crust is broken,
    - in the first 30 minutes of agitation,
    - after silage effluent has been added,
    - after storage for several months.

Precautions When Agitating Slurry

- Ventilate
    - Choose a windy day if possible
    - Open all doors and outlets
- Evacuate
    - All persons
    - All animals
- Agitate
    - Do not stand near slats
    - Do not enter the building for one hour

    - Avoid smoking and naked flame
- Protect Openings
    - Install a manhole safety access cover
    - If slat(s) has to be removed, provide adequate temporary protection of openings
    - Warn children and visitors
    - Use warning signs

Slurry Tank Protection

Adults and children can fall into unprotected slurry tank manhole openings. Always provide adequate temporary protection for tanks that have not got safety access covers.

Other Safety Considerations

- Never enter a slurry tank without suitable breathing apparatus and proper training.
- Toxic gases can remain in the tank even when it is empty and could cause suffocation.
- The gas masks available have limitations. Always check with the manufacturer before using them.
- Gas detection systems are available but should **not** be used as a substitute for the safety guidelines outlined.

Farm Check List

- Are safety access covers in place?
- Is there proper protection of openings?
- Are agitation guidelines being followed?
- Are PTO shafts covered ?
- Is the machine operator aware of the hazards?

Think Safety and Take Action