



Manure Safety

Suffocation & drowning are two major causes of death related to manure storage.

Enclosed structures:

Many potentially harmful or fatal gases are produced, but most remain at low levels or are diluted by the ventilation system.

- Hydrogen Sulfide has a rotten egg smell, found in poorly ventilated areas, and is rapidly released when manure is agitated. Don't be fooled if the smell has gone away. You can be desensitized to the smell quickly. Eye irritation and even death can occur.
- Ammonia has a distinctive, sharp odor. It causes eye irritation at low levels and even death at high levels.
- Methane is a concern because it is potentially explosive at high levels.
- Carbon Monoxide is odorless, but can cause one to stop breathing if enough oxygen is removed from the air. It is heavier than air and tends to accumulate in the same areas as hydrogen sulfide.

Open Structures:

Open manure storage ponds or above ground storage tanks also pose hazards; the most obvious is drowning. A storage pond may form a crust on the surface that appears solid and capable of holding a person's weight. This isn't always the case.

- Children are especially at risk for drowning and suffocation. Make sure they do not play near or on manure storage areas.
- To prevent drowning, it is recommended that farmers purchase and install safety measures (life preservers or life vests, throw ropes, and/or safety harnesses with anchor points around the structure).

For info on safety protocols and recommendations visit
<http://bit.ly/agmanuresafety>