



# SAFETY ALERT

NO: 01/ 2019

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## CO2 & Oxygen Depletion Gas Alarms

### 1. Summary of Incident / Background

Where there is a risk of oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) depletion or unsafe concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) to be generated within a space, the University installs monitoring devices connected to alarms to alert occupants of these unsafe conditions.

It is extremely important that workers in spaces with these monitoring devices are trained in the correct response to these alarms.

### 2. Identified Hazard/s

Gas monitoring and alarms can be critical to controlling an emergency as they allow the emergency or dangerous situation to be identified early and response actions initiated quickly.

All gas monitoring alarms at UniSA are set to trigger an alarm before dangerous levels are reached to allow time for response actions to be initiated. Gas monitor alarms are both audible (i.e. beeping) and visual (i.e. flashing light) in most instances.

### 3. Immediate Action Required

When an alarm is activated, you must:

1. Alert persons in the vicinity and exit the area
2. If safe to do so, remove anyone from the area and isolate the gas supply (i.e. push the E-stop button or turn off gas)
3. If required (i.e. immediate threat to life), contact Emergency Services – **Dial 000**
4. Contact Security – **Dial 88888 or 1800 500 911**
5. Do not allow anyone to enter the area until Security/ Emergency Services arrive.

### 4. Effects of O<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> Exposure

Effects of exposure to low oxygen concentrations can include giddiness, mental confusion, loss of judgement, loss of coordination, weakness, and nausea.

Symptoms of carbon dioxide asphyxia may include headache, dizziness, shortness of breath, muscular weakness, drowsiness, ringing in the ears and nausea.

Any worker who shows these symptoms whilst working in an area with gas monitoring should stop work immediately and notify their Supervisor/ Security immediately.