Drive Gas Detection Safety From Anywhere

MSA The Safety Company | safety io

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Safety Challenges

Safety professionals are accustomed to leading worker safety initiatives across work sites that can be separated by tens, hundreds and even thousands of miles. The COVID-19 pandemic introduced new safety management challenges, however, as many safety professionals themselves were asked to work off-site while their essential worker colleagues continued to report to the worksite. And although the physical location of "the office" might have changed, expectations around safety goals and outcomes have not; in fact, in some cases, the level of urgency and scrutiny has increased.

This presents a number of challenges

1. How are safety teams aware that the required personal protective equipment (PPE) is...
   - properly maintained?
   - compliant and ready to use?
   - accounted for?

2. Even once workers are outfitted with the appropriate PPE, how do safety teams know...
   - the PPE is worn or used correctly?
   - safety protocols and standard operating procedures are followed?

3. In those scenarios or in the event of an incident, who is confirming the related records and necessary reports are executed, shared and preserved?

To manage these areas of concern effectively, you need visibility despite where you happen to be sitting this week.

Fortunately, there are tools and services available to help.

With the assistance of cloud-based safety services and connected equipment, safety data can be accessed, assessed and addressed from anywhere with an Internet connection. Furthermore, that data can be compared in ways never before possible and displayed in a friendly format so that safety professionals have a greater chance of delivering on their safety goals.

As an example, modern gas detectors and area monitors can share their readings via a variety of connectivity options with a cloud-hosted service, making data quickly available for immediate review and easy to access for historical reasons. A responder can react instantly and accordingly when an alarm sounds, even when away from the office. Easier access to better data means faster, more appropriate reactions and better decisions—leading to better safety outcomes.

Within the personal protective equipment space, gas detection is a great place to start.

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Here is why:

1. Relevancy

An effective, high-performance gas detection system plays a critical role in the safety program by helping to safeguard lives and industrial facilities. A study published by the United Nations in 2019 estimates that one worker dies every 30 seconds from toxic exposure in their workplace.[1] Because incidents of exposure are grossly under-reported in some contexts and countries, this figure is an underestimation.[1] Just in the US, accordingly to the Department of Labor, between 2011 and 2017, 116 workers died in a single inhalation of carbon monoxide and other 46 died in a single inhalation of hydrogen sulfide.[2]

2. Accurate readings

When properly maintained, gas detectors have fast-responding, accurate sensors that provide reliable, high-quality data that can be analyzed and consolidated into meaningful insights.

3. Seamless connectivity

Modern gas detectors and area monitors connect and communicate with others in their network, even within large working perimeters, to share information locally and remotely so that alerts related to exposures, compliance concerns and more can be quickly identified and addressed. Seamless connectivity helps to make sure that hazard and compliance concerns are shared in real time with the safety team in charge, so they can take action when seconds count.

4. Automatic transfer of readings to the cloud

Depending on the service you choose, the data from portable gas detectors can be transferred to the cloud during detector testing or in real-time, making easier to comply with record-keeping standards, take action on safety and maintenance concerns and drive worker accountability with insights from your data.

5. Centralized data

When safety professionals can review gas detection data across their fleet or even multiple locations, it gives them the opportunity to be proactive and to share the burden with colleagues or trusted partners in their safety journey. This means teams in charge of safety have access and visibility from anywhere with an Internet connection.

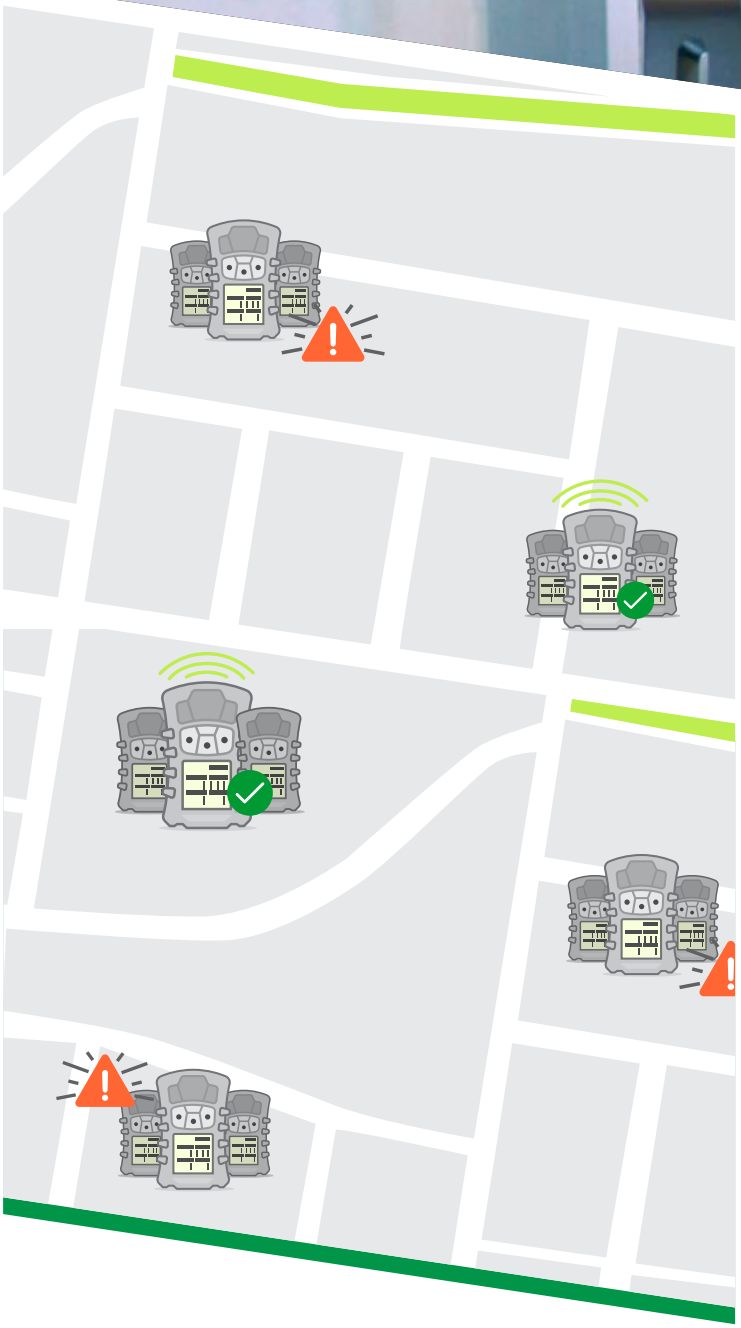
How to get started

We understand that it can be intimidating to start the journey into connected safety, and we can help.

Every day, our customers experience the benefits of a connected safety program when they see how MSA ALTAIR® Gas Detectors + Safety io Grid services help them regain control of their gas detection program, uncover safety training opportunities, and drive individual accountability even when working remotely.

See how you can improve your safety outcomes from anywhere with MSA and Safety io.

Register for a Grid demo today!



[1] United Nations Human Rights. Principles on human rights and the protection of workers from exposure to toxic substances - Report of the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes. On the internet at: https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G19/217/70/PDF/G1921770.pdf?OpenElement (visited June 08, 2020).

[2] Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, The Economics Daily, Fatal chemical inhalations in the workplace up in 2017 on the Internet at https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2019/fatal-chemical-inhalations-in-the-workplace-up-in-2017.htm (visited June 08, 2020).

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