



RATIONAL. OBJECTIVE. EHS SOLUTIONS.

---

**CO<sub>2</sub> & YOU: WHAT YOU AND YOUR EMPLOYEES NEED TO KNOW**



## WHAT IS CARBON DIOXIDE?

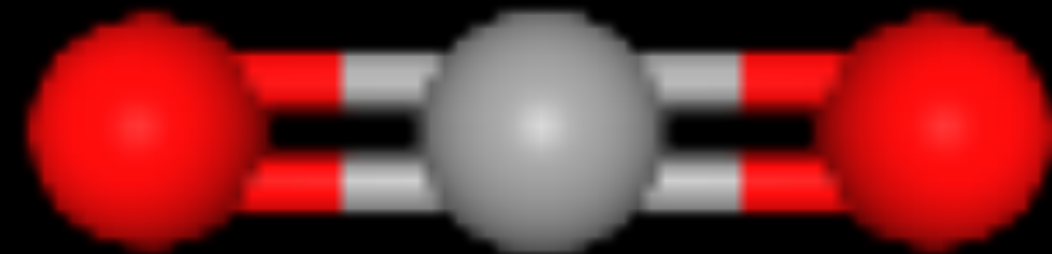
▶ Greenhouse gas

▶ Natural

▶ Harmless in small quantities

▶ Most commonly produced indoors by exhalation

▶ Colorless, odorless gas at atmospheric temperatures and pressures



▶ Relatively nontoxic and non

▶ 1.54x heavier than air

▶ Forms carbonic acid

▶ Under prolonged exposure to fire a container may rupture violently and rocket

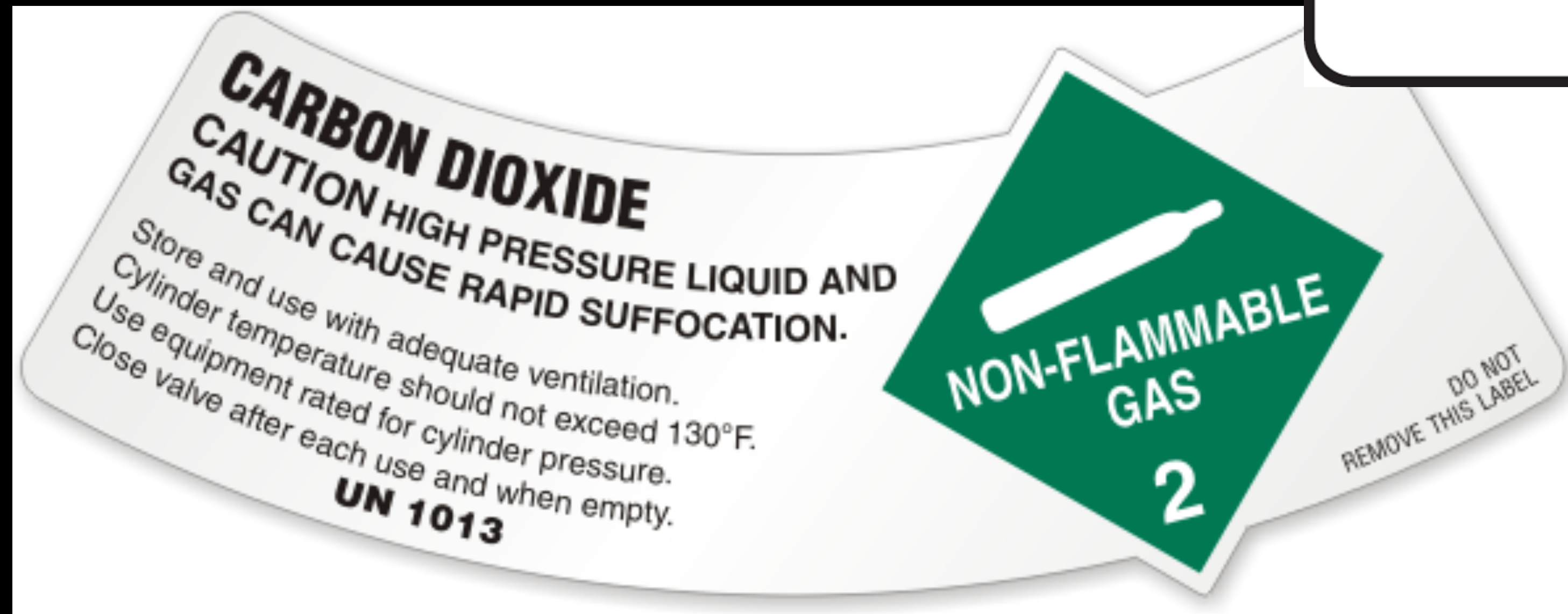
▶ Produced by respiration by all animals





## WHAT IS CARBON DIOXIDE?

- ▶ US DOT Hazardous Material
  - ▶ UN1013, Carbon Dioxide, 2.2





## HAZMAT CIVIL PENALTIES RAISED (AGAIN)

- ▶ Hazmat Shipping Violation Maximum: \$83,439 to \$84,425 per day, per violation
- ▶ Violation the results in death, serious illness, severe injury, or substantial property damage: \$194,691 to \$196,992 per violation, per day
- ▶ **Minimum penalty for failure to provide hazmat training for employees: \$502 to \$508 per employee, per day**
- ▶ For more information: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-05-03/pdf/2021-08224.pdf>





# WHAT IS CARBON DIOXIDE?

- ▶ Food Grade vs. Beverage Grade
- ▶ International Society of Beverage Technologies (ISBT) Carbon Dioxide Guidelines
  - ▶ 22 parameters included for purity:
    - ▶ Sensory,
    - ▶ Process, or
    - ▶ Regulatory
  - ▶ 21 CFR 184.1240
    - ▶ Ingredient must be of a purity suitable for its intended use

| Parameter                     |                                     | Rationale <sup>1</sup> |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Purity                        | 99.9% v/v min.                      | Process                |
| Moisture                      | 20 ppm v/v max.                     | Process                |
| Acidity                       | To pass test                        | Regulatory             |
| Oxygen                        | 30 ppm v/v max.                     | Sensory                |
| Nitrogen compounds            |                                     |                        |
| Ammonia                       | 2.5 ppm v/v max.                    | Process                |
| Nitric oxide/nitrogen dioxide | 2.5 ppm v/v max. each               | Regulatory             |
| Non-volatile residue          | 10 ppm w/w max.                     | Sensory                |
| Non-volatile organic residue  | 5 ppm w/w max.                      | Sensory                |
| Phosphine                     | To pass test (0.3 ppm v/v max)      | Regulatory             |
| Total volatile                | 50 ppm v/v max. of which 20 ppm v/v | Sensory                |
| Hydrocarbons (as methane)     | max. of non-methane hydrocarbons    |                        |
| Acetaldehyde                  | 0.2 ppm v/v max.                    | Sensory                |
| Aromatic hydrocarbon          | 0.020 ppm v/v max.                  | Regulatory             |
| Carbon monoxide               | 10 ppm v/v max.                     | Process                |
| Total sulfur (as S)           | 0.1 ppm v/v max.                    | Sensory                |
| Carbonyl sulfide              | 0.1 ppm v/v max.                    | Sensory                |
| Hydrogen sulfide              | 0.1 ppm v/v max.                    | Sensory                |
| Sulfur dioxide                | 1 ppm v/v max.                      | Sensory                |
| Appearance in water           | No color or turbidity               | Sensory                |
| Odor                          | Odorless                            | Sensory                |
| Taste and odor                | No foreign taste or odor in water   | Sensory                |

Table 1. ISBT Carbon Dioxide Guidelines.

<sup>1</sup>Rationale definitions:

Sensory: Any attribute that negatively impacts the taste, appearance, or odor of beverage.

Process: Any attribute that defines a key parameter in a controlled process and an important consideration in the beverage industry.

Regulatory: Any attribute whose limit is set by governing regulatory agencies.



## WHY IS CARBON DIOXIDE IMPORTANT?

- ▶ Plants use it to produce carbohydrates during photosynthesis
- ▶ Feedstock to replace organic substances (minerals, water, wood)
- ▶ Chemical manufacturing
- ▶ Food and beverage production
- ▶ Enhanced Oil Recovery
- ▶ Dry cleaning
- ▶ Electronics cleaning
- ▶ Indoor cultivation
- ▶ Fire suppression





## CARBON DIOXIDE MANUFACTURING

- ▶ Mostly generated as byproduct of commercial ammonia and hydrogen production
- ▶ Flue gases produced by the complete combustion of carbonaceous fuels
- ▶ Fermentation processes (up to 80% may be recoverable)





## HOW IS CARBON DIOXIDE USED IN BREWING?

- ▶ Refrigerant
- ▶ Flavor enhancer/agent/adjuvant
- ▶ Carbonating agent
- ▶ Pre-filling bottles
- ▶ Head-spacing filling
- ▶ Blanketing Vessels

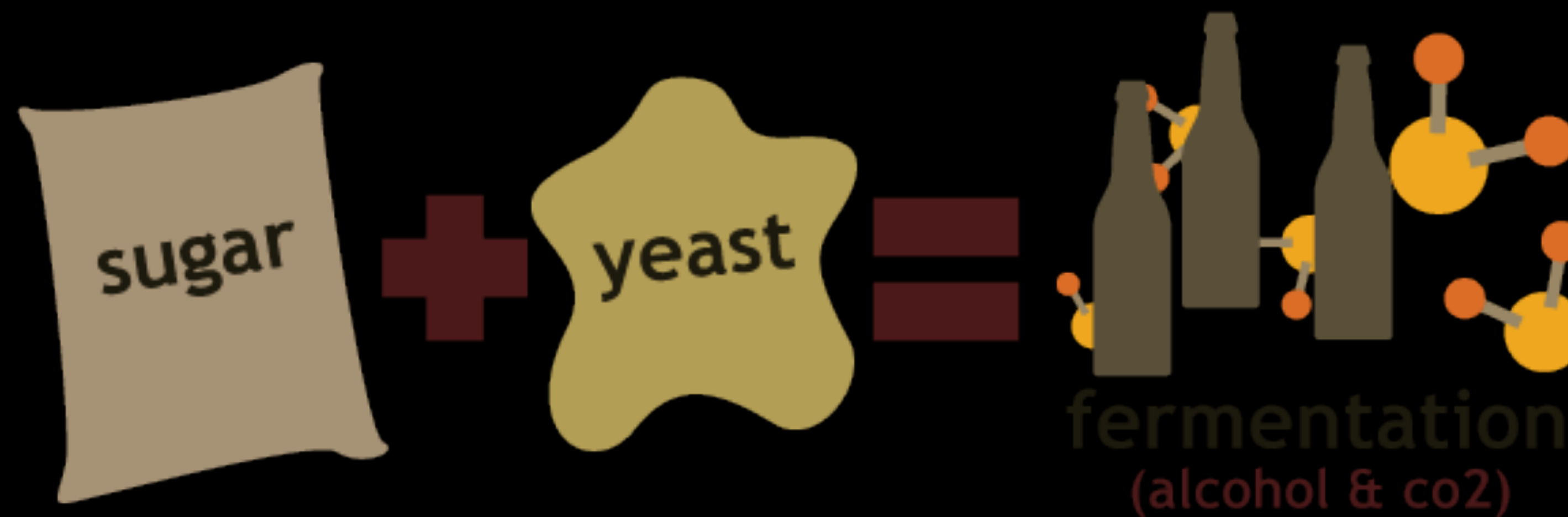






## HOW IS CARBON DIOXIDE GENERATED DURING BREWING?

- ▶ Produced by yeast during fermentation and creates the “fizz” or “condition” characteristic of beer
- ▶ In anaerobic fermentation, yeast converts the sugars in the wort to, primarily, alcohol and CO<sub>2</sub>





## HOW TO MONITOR FOR CARBON DIOXIDE?

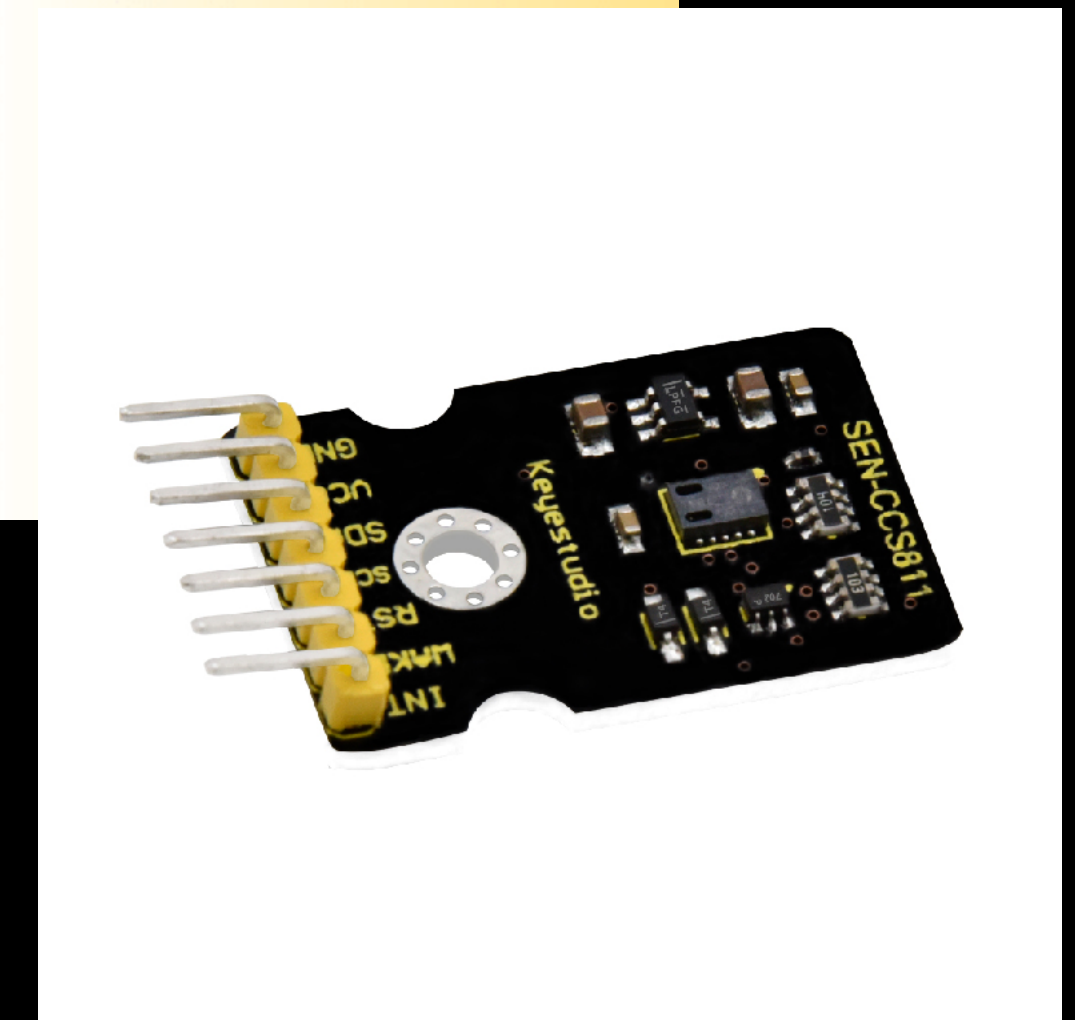
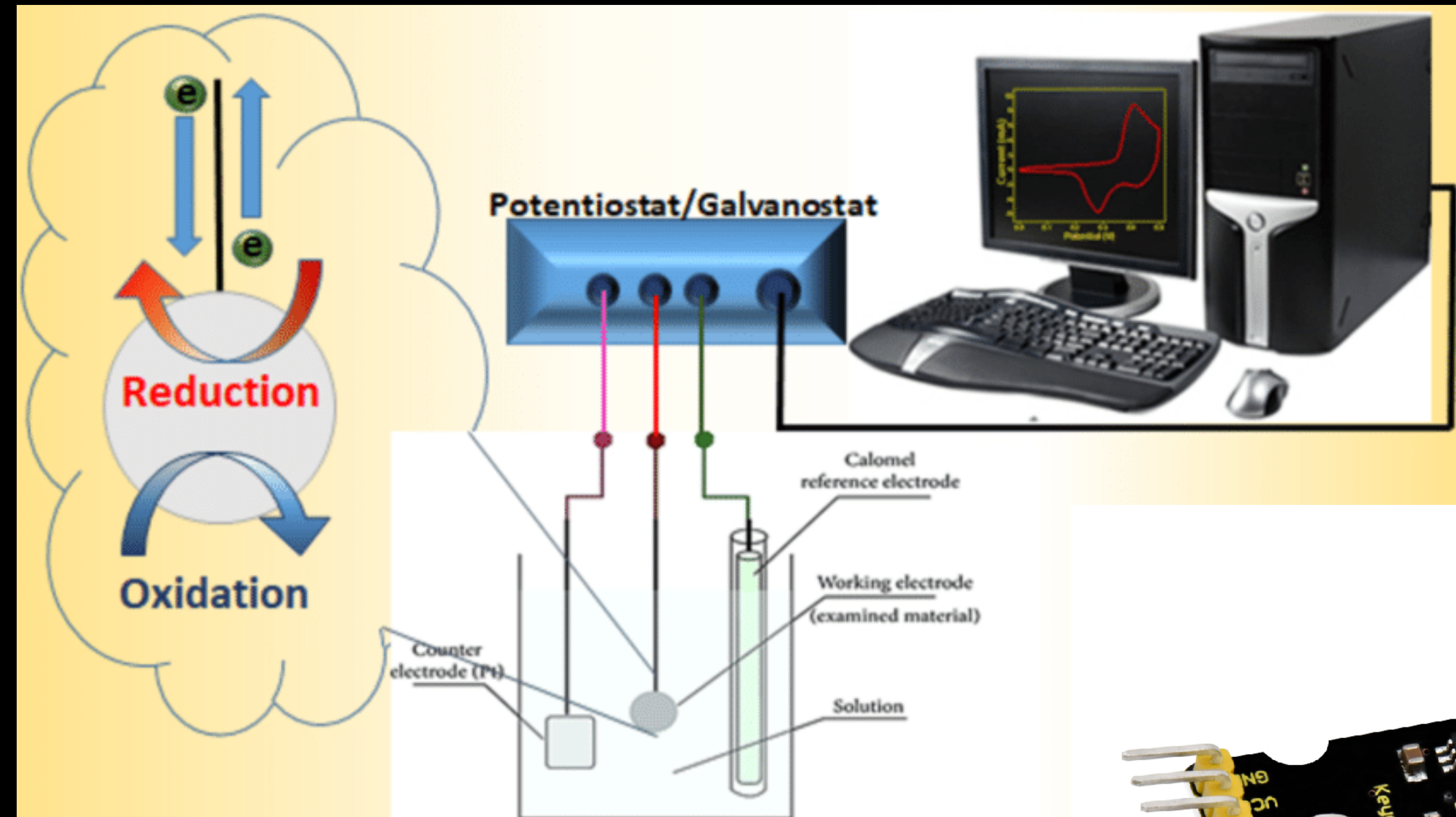
- ▶ Portable Monitors
  - ▶ Spot checks, walk arounds, lead source identification





# HOW TO MONITOR FOR CARBON DIOXIDE?

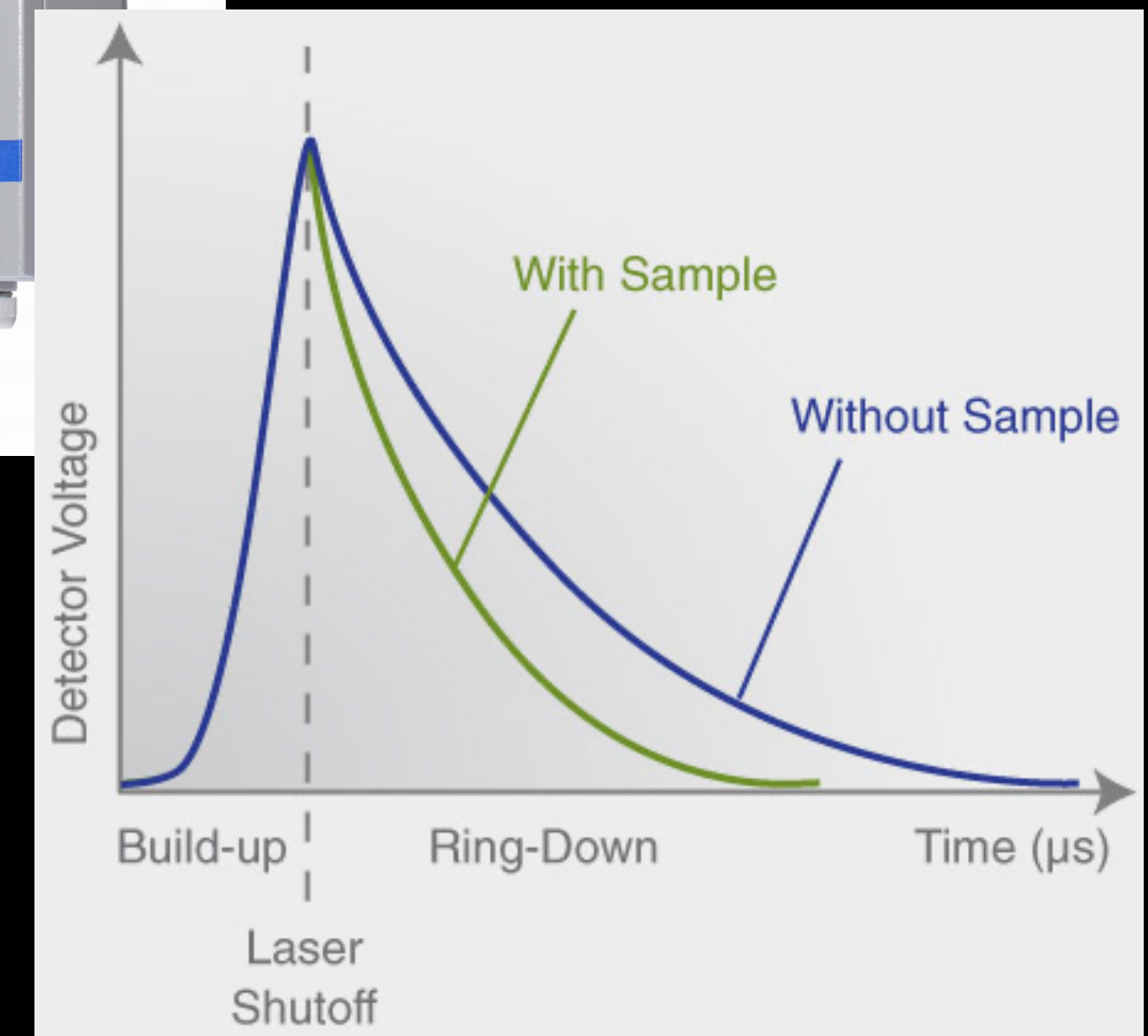
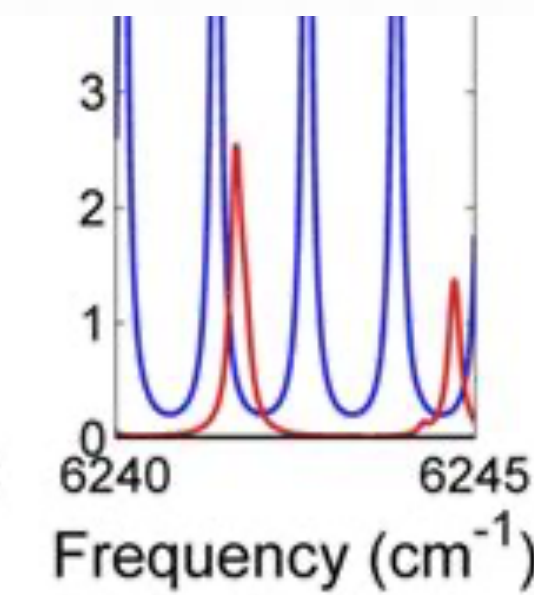
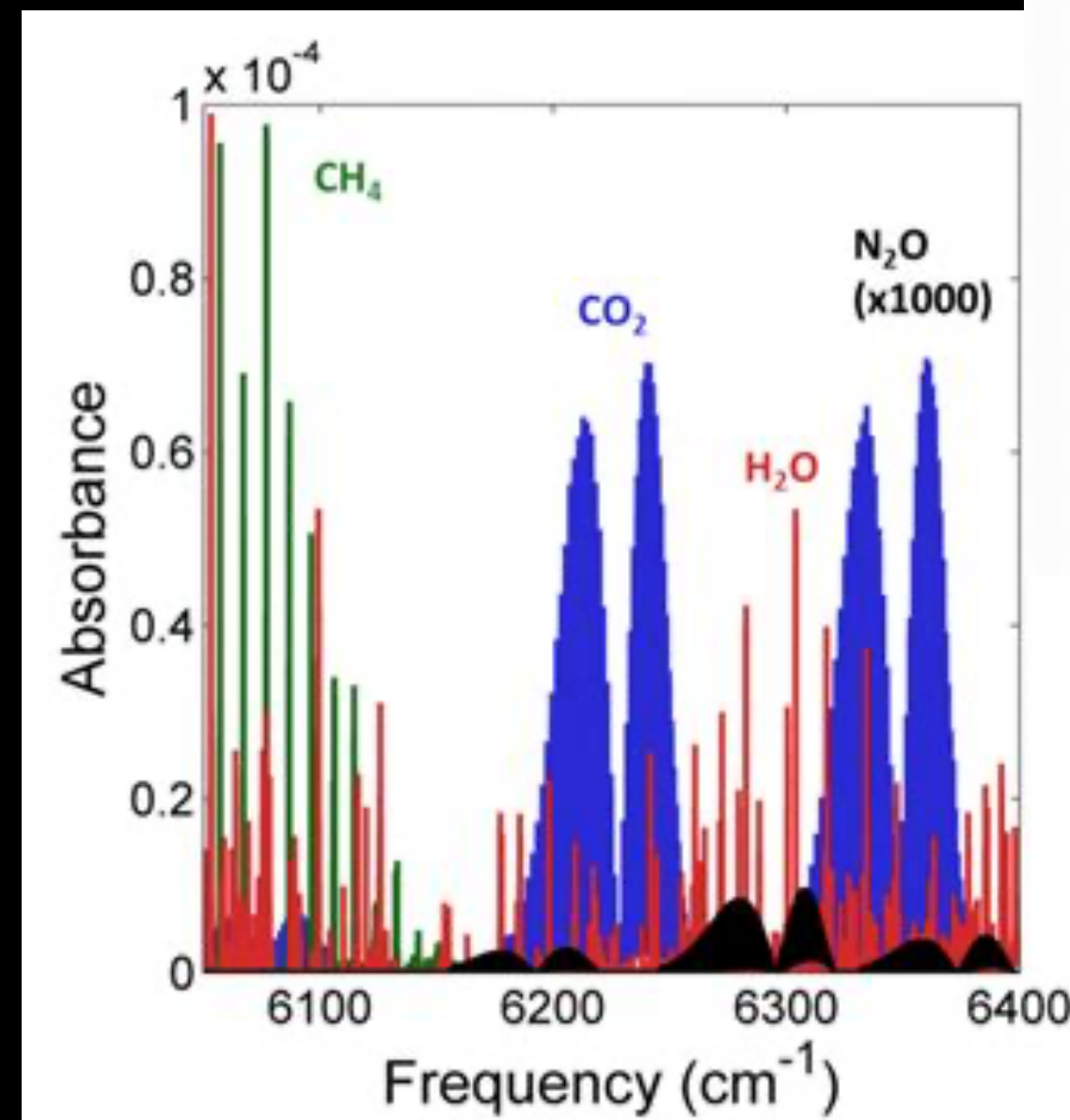
- ▶ Fixed Monitoring System
  - ▶ Electrochemical
    - ▶ Direct
    - ▶ Indirect
  - ▶ Metal Oxide/Solid State





# HOW TO MONITOR FOR CARBON DIOXIDE?

- ▶ Infrared
  - ▶ NDIR
  - ▶ Photo-acoustic IR
- ▶ Spectroscopy
  - ▶ Cavity Ring-Down
  - ▶ Laser Absorption





## CHALLENGES TO CARBON DIOXIDE MONITORING

- ▶ Temperature
- ▶ Washdown
- ▶ Interfering Gases
- ▶ Functionality Needed
- ▶ Maintenance & Support Required
- ▶ Detection Range of Instruments





## RANGE VS. ACCURACY

- ▶ Measure 400 ppm CO<sub>2</sub>, using a 100% CO<sub>2</sub> sensor and the CO<sub>2</sub> level increased to 500 ppm, the change would be from 0.04% to 0.05%
  - ▶ This 0.01% (100 ppm) change is outside the 100 - 300 ppm range accuracy of a typical 100% CO<sub>2</sub> sensor; thus the sensor would probably not record any change
- ▶ The accuracy of a 10,000 ppm NDIR sensor is around 50 ppm (0.005%)
  - ▶ While you would likely not see an exact 100 ppm change, you would see a rising trend toward 100 ppm



# ACCURACY VS. PRECISION

**Accurate  
Precise**



**Not Accurate  
Precise**



**Accurate  
Not Precise**



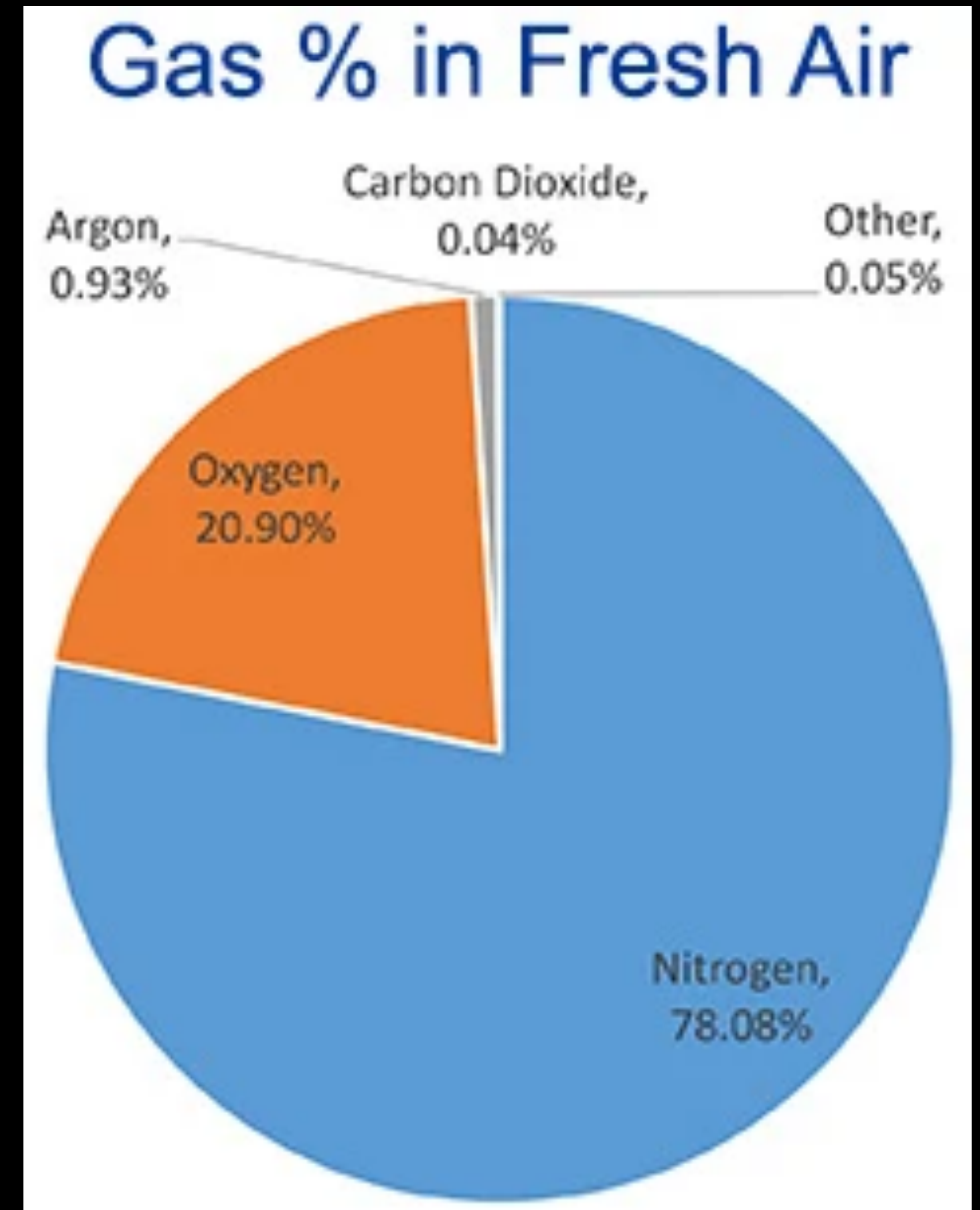
**Not Accurate  
Not Precise**





## UNDERSTANDING CONCENTRATIONS

- ▶ Imagine you have 1,000,000 molecules of air
  - ▶ Nitrogen: ~780,000 (78%)
  - ▶ Oxygen: ~209,000 (20.9%)
  - ▶ Argon: ~9,000 (0.09%)
  - ▶ CO<sub>2</sub>, Neon, Methane, Helium: ~2,000 (0.02%)
    - ▶ CO<sub>2</sub>: ~400 (0.04%)







## HEALTH IMPACTS OF CARBON DIOXIDE EXPOSURE

- ▶ Historically classified as an asphyxiant and thus not harmful
- ▶ Direct effects
- ▶ Indirect effects of displacing oxygen
- ▶ At 600 ppm affects brain function to assess, calculate and reason
- ▶ Increased fatigue at 1,000 ppm



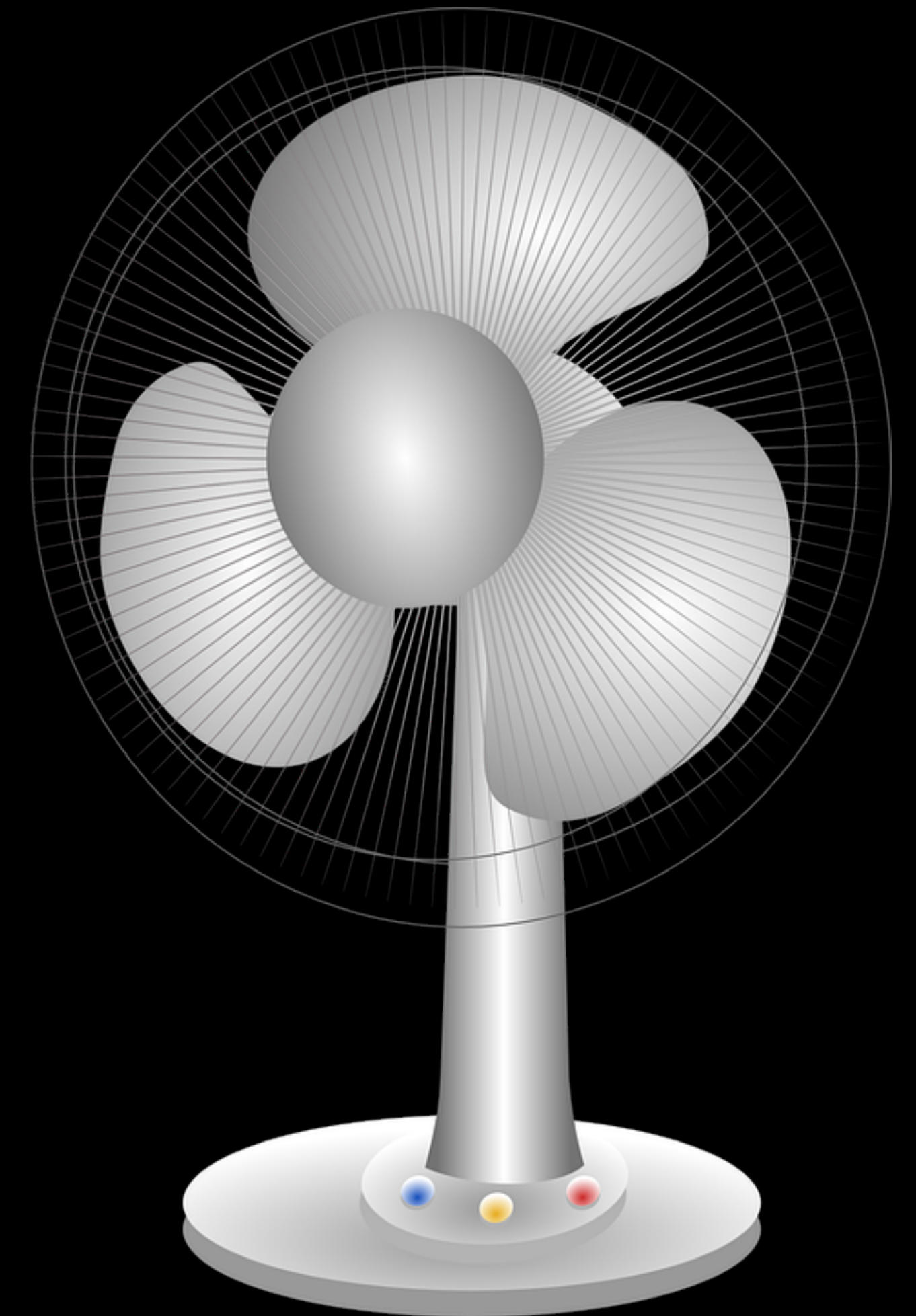
## ACUTE HEALTH EFFECTS OF CARBON DIOXIDE EXPOSURE

| PPM           | Acute Health Effects   |
|---------------|--|
| 250 - 400     | Normal background concentration in outdoor ambient air   |
| 400 - 1,000   | Concentrations typical of occupied indoor spaces with good air exchange  |
| 1,000 - 2,000 | Complaints of drowsiness and poor air  |
| 2,000 - 5,000 | Headaches, sleepiness and stagnant, stale, stuffy air. Poor concentration, loss of attention, increased heart rate and slight nausea (OSHA PEL: 5,000 ppm) |
| >40,000       | May lead to serious oxygen deprivation resulting in permanent brain damage, coma and even death (IDLH: 40,000 ppm)   |



## HAZARD MITIGATION: VENTILATION

- ▶ Poor ventilation allows excessive CO<sub>2</sub> to build up
- ▶ Ventilation rate per person is estimated by indoor CO<sub>2</sub> ppm above outdoor ppm
- ▶ Higher CO<sub>2</sub> relates to lower occupant health, comfort and performance
  - ▶ Tap Room





## HAZARD MITIGATION: VENTILATION

- ▶ ASHRAE Standard 62.1-2016 “Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality”
  - ▶ Typical office building CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations 700 ppm above outdoor air levels
    - ▶ Air ventilation rate of about 7.5 L/s/ person (15 cfm/person)
    - ▶ Typical outdoor CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations range from 300 to 500 ppm





## HAZARD MITIGATION: WALK-IN COOLERS

- ▶ When CO<sub>2</sub> gets colder it sinks faster and moves slower
- ▶ Exhaust fans and ventilation systems become less effective at moving/mixing the air





## BLANKETING VESSELS WITH CARBON DIOXIDE

- ▶ A dangerous concentration remains for hours
- ▶ Higher concentrations in the cone, below the manway
- ▶ Purge the vessel prior to work
  - ▶ Confined space entry





## BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- ▶ Ventilation systems should exhaust from the lowest level and allow fresh air to enter at a higher point
- ▶ Operators should be trained on proper operation, installation and maintenance of CO<sub>2</sub> systems and storage containers, and symptoms of exposure
- ▶ Storage containers should be stored in well-ventilated area outside
- ▶ Periodically check fittings, connections, piping/hoses/tubes, and storage container plumbing for leaks and as recommended by the manufacturer
- ▶ Install, inspect, and maintain detectors with alarm systems in appropriate areas



## LEAK RESPONSE

- ▶ Evacuate the area for at least 330 feet in all directions
- ▶ Stop the leak if you can do so safely
- ▶ Ventilate the area
- ▶ Ensure emergency responders are made aware of the leaking material
- ▶ Move exposed personnel to fresh air, if it can be done safely
- ▶ ERG 120: [https://cameochemicals.noaa.gov/erg\\_guides/en/Guide\\_120.pdf](https://cameochemicals.noaa.gov/erg_guides/en/Guide_120.pdf)



## POTENTIAL HAZARDS

## HEALTH

- Vapors may cause dizziness or asphyxiation without warning.
- Vapors from liquefied gas are initially heavier than air and spread along ground.
- Contact with gas or liquefied gas may cause burns, severe injury and/or frostbite.

## FIRE OR EXPLOSION

- **Non-flammable gases.**
- Containers may explode when heated.
- Ruptured cylinders may rocket.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

- **CALL EMERGENCY RESPONSE Telephone Number on Shipping Paper first. If Shipping Paper not available or no answer, refer to appropriate telephone number listed on the inside back cover.**
- As an immediate precautionary measure, isolate spill or leak area for at least 100 meters (330 feet) in all directions.
- Keep unauthorized personnel away.
- Stay upwind, uphill and/or upstream.
- Many gases are heavier than air and will spread along ground and collect in low or confined areas (sewers, basements, tanks).
- Ventilate closed spaces before entering.

## PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

- Wear positive pressure self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).
- Structural firefighters' protective clothing will only provide limited protection.
- Always wear thermal protective clothing when handling refrigerated/cryogenic liquids or solids.

## EVACUATION

## Large Spill

- Consider initial downwind evacuation for at least 100 meters (330 feet).

## Fire

- If tank, rail car or tank truck is involved in a fire, ISOLATE for 800 meters (1/2 mile) in all directions; also, consider initial evacuation for 800 meters (1/2 mile) in all directions.

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE

## FIRE

- Use extinguishing agent suitable for type of surrounding fire.
- Move containers from fire area if you can do it without risk.
- Damaged cylinders should be handled only by specialists.

## Fire involving Tanks

- Fight fire from maximum distance or use unmanned hose holders or monitor nozzles.
- Cool containers with flooding quantities of water until well after fire is out.
- Do not direct water at source of leak or safety devices; icing may occur.
- Withdraw immediately in case of rising sound from venting safety devices or discoloration of tank.
- ALWAYS stay away from tanks engulfed in fire.

## SPILL OR LEAK

- Do not touch or walk through spilled material.
- Stop leak if you can do it without risk.
- Use water spray to reduce vapors or divert vapor cloud drift. Avoid allowing water runoff to contact spilled material.
- Do not direct water at spill or source of leak.
- If possible, turn leaking containers so that gas escapes rather than liquid.
- Prevent entry into waterways, sewers, basements or confined areas.
- Allow substance to evaporate.
- Ventilate the area.

**CAUTION: When in contact with refrigerated/cryogenic liquids, many materials become brittle and are likely to break without warning.**

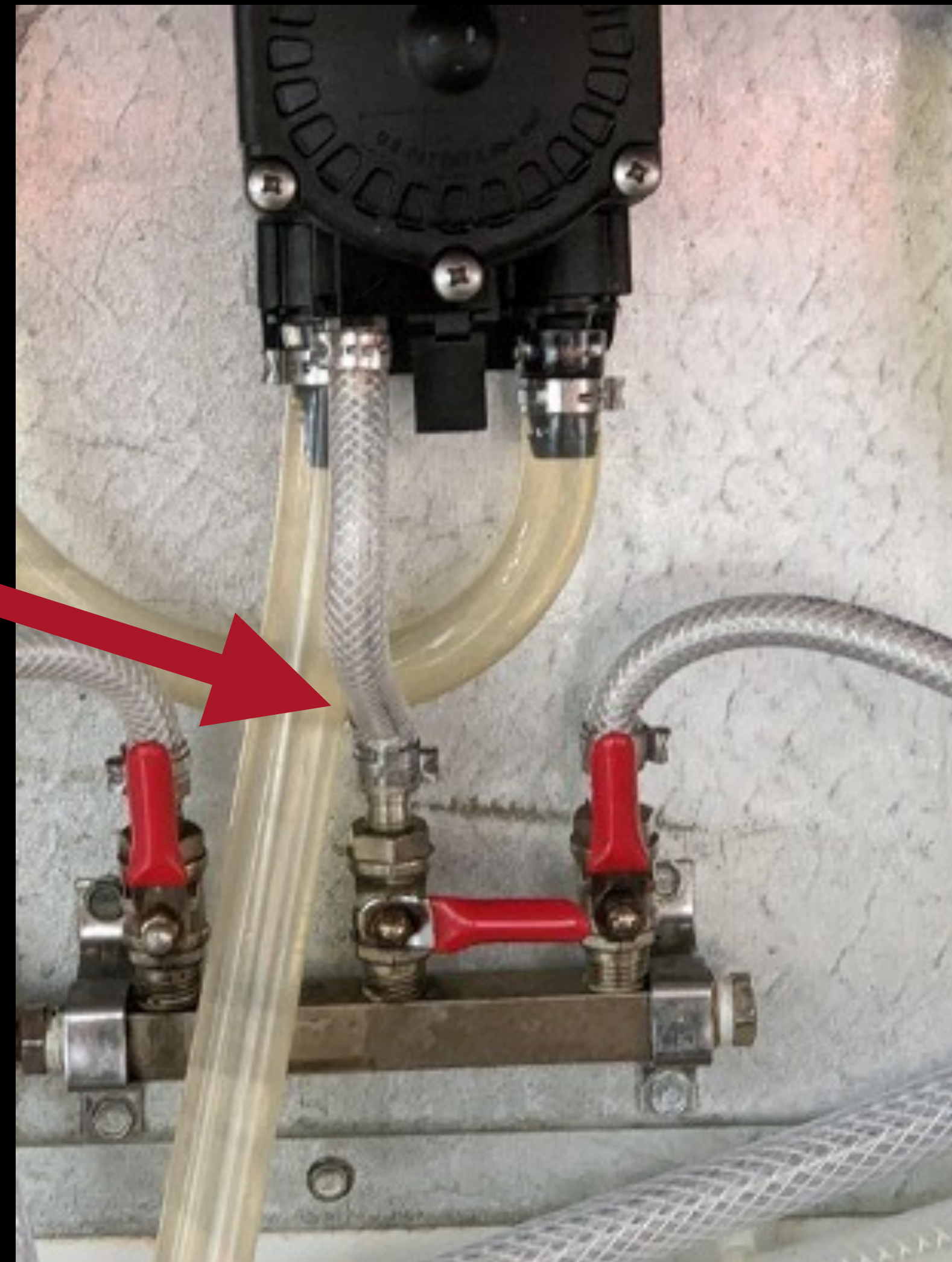
## FIRST AID

- Ensure that medical personnel are aware of the material(s) involved and take precautions to protect themselves.
- Move victim to fresh air.
- Call 911 or emergency medical service.
- Give artificial respiration if victim is not breathing.
- Administer oxygen if breathing is difficult.
- Clothing frozen to the skin should be thawed before being removed.
- In case of contact with liquefied gas, thaw frosted parts with lukewarm water.
- Keep victim calm and warm.



## MADTREE BREWING AND CARBON DIOXIDE

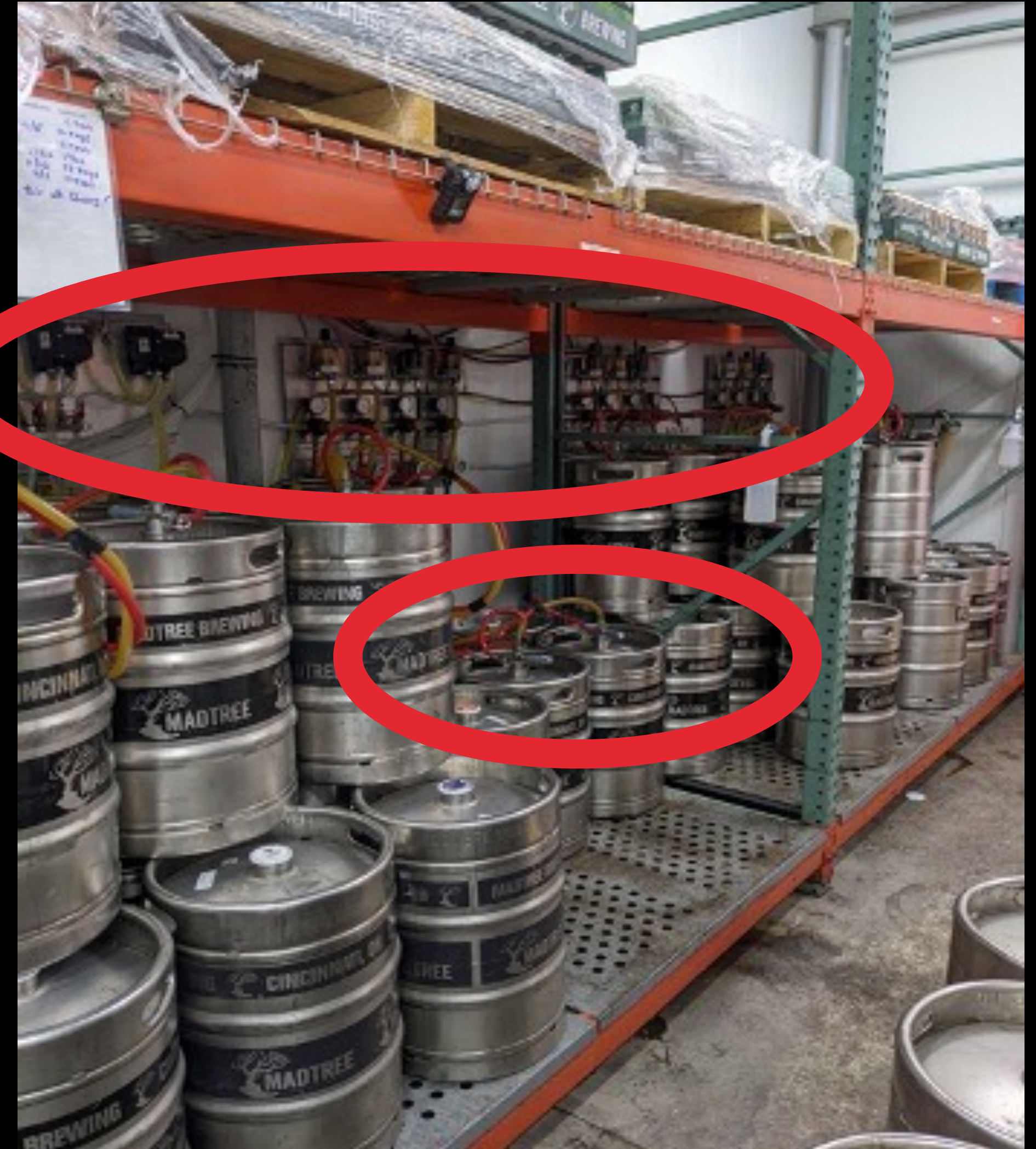
- ▶ Taproom Cooler
  - ▶ Damaged Hose
- ▶ Safety Committee
  - ▶ Near Miss
- ▶ Motion of Change
  - ▶ Wide Communication Across Departments
- ▶ Opportunities
  - ▶ Training and Monitoring





## MADTREE BREWING AND CARBON DIOXIDE

- ▶ Hose Clamp Failure Leading to CO2 Risk
- ▶ Previous Training and Carbon Dioxide Monitor
- ▶ Previous Efforts Helped Improve Safety



## CONTACT INFORMATION

Dave Rice, CHMM  
Founder & Principal Consultant  
Rubicon EHS

[daverice@RubiconEHS.com](mailto:daverice@RubiconEHS.com)

[www.RubiconEHS.com](http://www.RubiconEHS.com) | [@RubiconEHS](https://www.instagram.com/RubiconEHS)  
614.506.2365

Chandler Cottrell  
Food Safety and Quality Manager  
MadTree Brewing

[chandler.cottrell@madtreebrewing.com](mailto:chandler.cottrell@madtreebrewing.com)



**RUBICON**  
EHS