## [ID-P#010] Unveiling the Hidden Hazard: Hydrogen Sulfide Poisoning Among Fishermen in Ambalangoda, Sri Lanka

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**Introduction**: Exposure to toxic fumes from decaying fish, particularly hydrogen sulfide (HS), poses a significant yet often unreported health hazard. HS, identifiable by its foul smell, is highly toxic, surpassing carbon monoxide in danger. Fishermen, frequently working in unsafe conditions and lacking awareness, are frequent victims. Furthermore, medical professionals lack sufficient expertise in managing HS-exposed patients.

**Objectives and Results**: This report details nine cases of acute HS exposure among fishing trawler workers in Ambalangoda, Sri Lanka. All patients, previously healthy males aged 25 to 53, became unconscious after exposure to gas from decayed fish in the trawler's cargo hold. Following resuscitation with high-flow oxygen, most patients recovered, but two required ICU admission. Unfortunately, one worker succumbed to HS poisoning despite medical intervention. The postmortem has been completed, and the cause of death has been confirmed as poisoning from hydrogen sulfide.

**Discussion and Conclusion**: This study underscores the need for enhanced education for fishermen and increased vigilance from public health inspectors in high-risk areas. Successful resuscitation with high-flow oxygen highlights the necessity of proper equipment availability to mitigate fatalities. Community health workers play a vital role in prevention efforts, emphasizing the importance of proactive measures to safeguard the well-being of fishing industry workers.