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## [May Levels of Toxic Gases in Gulf Back Up Claim Made by Lindsey Williams](#)

**Infowars.com**

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Appearing on the Alex Jones Show earlier in the week, pastor Lindsey Williams said that gases — Hydrogen Sulfide, Benzene, Methylene Chloride, and other toxic gases — pose a greater risk to human health than the presence of oil washing up on Gulf of Mexico beaches. Williams said the EPA is not reporting on the amount of gases escaping from the BP oil gusher. However, the second video below suggests the EPA has released data on the amount of Hydrogen Sulfide and Benzene in the air in Louisiana.

On May 14 [WWLTV](#) in New Orleans ran a report on the levels of Hydrogen Sulfide and Benzene in the air at that time. 5-10 parts per billion is the established allowable amount for Hydrogen Sulfide. WWLTV reported that on May 3 the level was recorded at 1,192 ppb. Pastor Williams said his sources report the level detected in the Gulf at 1,200 ppb and the amount poses a serious and even fatal health risk.

“The media coverage of the BP oil disaster to date has focused largely on the threats to wildlife, but the latest evaluation of air monitoring data shows a serious threat to human health from airborne chemicals emitted by the ongoing deepwater gusher,” the [Institute for Southern Studies blog](#) reported on May 10.

Today the Louisiana Environmental Action Network released its analysis of air monitoring test results by the Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA’s air testing data comes from Venice, a coastal community 75 miles south of New Orleans in Louisiana’s Plaquemines Parish.

The findings show that levels of airborne chemicals have far exceeded state standards and what’s considered safe for human exposure.

For instance, hydrogen sulfide has been detected at concentrations more than 100 times

greater than the level known to cause physical reactions in people. Among the health effects of hydrogen sulfide exposure are eye and respiratory irritation as well as nausea, dizziness, confusion and headache.

The concentration threshold for people to experience physical symptoms from hydrogen sulfide is about 5 to 10 parts per billion. But as recently as last Thursday, the EPA measured levels at 1,000 ppb. The highest levels of airborne hydrogen sulfide measured so far were on May 3, at 1,192 ppb.

## Levels of Airborne Contaminants in Wake of BP Oil Spill

Date	Hydrogen Sulfide (ppb)	VOCs (ppb)
April 28	none detected	none detected
April 29	no data	none detected
April 30	no data	3,084
May 1	no data	923
May 2	30	3,416
May 3	1,192	780
May 4	46	1,243
May 5	1,010	37
May 6	1,000	483
May 7	280	none detected

*(Institute for Southern Studies chart based on Louisiana Environmental Action Network's analysis of EPA Data)*

From the [H2S Safety Factsheet](#):

### Health Effects of Hydrogen Sulfide

H2S is classed as a **chemical asphyxiant**, similar to carbon monoxide and cyanide gases. It inhibits cellular respiration and uptake of oxygen, causing biochemical suffocation. Typical exposure symptoms include:

<b>L O W</b>	0 – 10 ppm	Irritation of the eyes, nose and throat
<b>M O D</b>	10 – 50 ppm	Headache Dizziness Nausea and vomiting Coughing and breathing difficulty
<b>H I G H</b>	50 – 200 ppm	Severe respiratory tract irritation Eye irritation / acute conjunctivitis Shock Convulsions Coma Death in severe cases

Prolonged exposures at lower levels can lead to bronchitis, pneumonia, migraine headaches, pulmonary edema, and loss of motor coordination.

## **Health Effects of Exposure to Benzene** (from the [CDC](#)):

- The major effect of benzene from long-term exposure is on the blood. (Long-term exposure means exposure of a year or more.) Benzene causes harmful effects on the bone marrow and can cause a decrease in red blood cells, leading to anemia. It can also cause excessive bleeding and can affect the immune system, increasing the chance for infection.
- Some women who breathed high levels of benzene for many months had irregular menstrual periods and a decrease in the size of their ovaries. It is not known whether benzene exposure affects the developing fetus in pregnant women or fertility in men.
- Animal studies have shown low birth weights, delayed bone formation, and bone marrow damage when pregnant animals breathed benzene.
- The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has determined that benzene causes cancer in humans. Long-term exposure to high levels of benzene in the air can cause leukemia, cancer of the blood-forming organs.

People who breathe in high levels of benzene may develop the following signs and symptoms within minutes to several hours:

- \* Drowsiness
- \* Dizziness
- \* Rapid or irregular heartbeat
- \* Headaches
- \* Tremors
- \* Confusion
- \* Unconsciousness
- \* Death (at very high levels)

The government is passing the buck on illnesses related to exposure to BP. "Getting statistics on worker illness related to the Gulf oil spill is proving to be difficult, as federal agencies continually refer requests either to another federal agency or to BP," [ProPublica](#) reported on June 10. "When we asked for statistics on health complaints related to the Gulf spill, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention told us to ask the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. OSHA has told us to ask BP. The Environmental Protection Agency recommended via e-mail that we contact someone at the Department of Homeland Security."

Do you think BP will address this serious health issue? The corporation will not even allow the media to report in oil washing up on beaches.

Government and corporations are not in the business of protecting our health. Corporations are in the business making as much money as possible and government is in the business of making sure corporations make as much money as possible. The health and welfare of the American people does not figure into the equation.

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