

Using the Radius™ BZ1 for Hot Work



Each day in industrial plants and commercial settings it is common to see men and women welding, cutting, and grinding. Perhaps they are welding piping to a new storage tank, repairing a heat exchanger, or fixing damage to a line that has corroded and failed after decades of exposure to the elements. These workers are performing “hot work.” Hot work uses flame- or spark-producing equipment to perform a task. Regardless of the application, this equipment could ignite any combustible gases in the area. Workers performing hot work must remain vigilant and monitor for combustible gases.

Prior to beginning any hot work, the piping, tank, or other vessel must be purged and checked to ensure it is clear of any combustible material. Workers should wear a combustible gas (LEL) monitor to protect them during their tasks. After preparation is complete, it is a good practice to continue monitoring the surrounding environment for combustible gases that may drift into the work environment.

Using Industrial Scientific’s Radius™ BZ1 Area Monitor, a temporary perimeter or fence line can be set up around the site of the hot work. This detection barrier can be placed upwind of the work site to provide advanced notification of any combustible gases or vapors. The Radius BZ1 monitors will provide a “buffer zone,” allowing teams to quickly stop their work and vacate the area before any combustible gases reach the location of the hot work.

Radius BZ1 monitors can all be linked using LENS™ Wireless so that when one unit goes into alarm, they all alarm, quickly grabbing the attention of workers in the area thanks to the 108 dB at 1 m audible alarms of the Radius BZ1. Further, a unit that senses gas and originates an alarm will have a different colored visual alarm pattern from those units wirelessly receiving the alarm. This allows workers to quickly stop work, identify which direction the gas is heading, and move in a safe direction.

Regardless of the specific type of hot work being performed, the industry, or the environment, the Radius BZ1 monitor can add an additional layer of safety during these critical tasks. And since the units are portable, they can easily be transported to keep workers safe at the next hot work site.

To learn more about the Radius BZ1 Area Monitor and how it can help your hot work program, visit Industrial Scientific at www.indsci.com/radius.