

Back to Fundamentals: Health, Safety and Environment

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The talk presents experiential and technical information covering formed sulfur handling. It is intended to inform operators at new operations of some fundamental matters pertinent to HSE and quality.

Handling elemental sulfur in accordance with proper HSE standards is a challenge. The need to mitigate airborne particulates led to the development of various types of “formed sulfur – that is solidified in a manufacturing process – from the 1960s forward.” It also encouraged a shift to molten sulfur at many locations, such as the US Gulf Coast. Myriad other issues, perhaps less obvious to the eye, should be considered when elemental sulfur is extracted, stored, transported and consumed.

Material presented combines technical, practical, third-party and personal observations from commercial engagements. Corrosion, pyrophoric iron, degassing, the importance of removing H₂S gas, the origin of “black sulfur,” cost cutting trends, the need for specifications at loading into vessels, use of moisture during loading, dust formation and mitigation, the origin of “black sulfur”, and etc... are some of the topics addressed and opinions presented.