

The Effects of Insect Repellent on Sensors

Technical Note
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Many commercially available insect repellents contain high concentrations of ethanol, from 30 to 60%. Ethanol increases the skin's absorption of deet, the active ingredient commonly used in insect repellents. Alcohol vapors, such as ethanol, can diminish the sensitivity of some H₂S sensors. Hydrocarbons such as isobutane, propane and butane are generally used in insect repellents as an aerosol propellant. Combustible gas sensors may be affected by the aerosol propellant. Because of the effect alcohol vapors and aerosol propellants can have on sensors, the direct application of insect repellents while wearing personal gas detectors is not recommended.

BW Technologies instruments are now shipped with H₂S sensors that are resistant to alcohol vapors. As a safety precaution, it is recommended that you simply remove your personal gas detector while applying any insect repellent.

Please feel free to contact your supplier, regional BW sales manager, or the Product Management team with any questions or comments.

