

# IF THE ALARM SOUNDS

*Information on safety and self-protection from  
Ovako, Hofors Municipality, and Gästrike Rescue Services*



### **Why are you receiving this folder?**

The storage of propane (LPG), hydrogen, and oxygen within Ovako in Hofors is regarded from a legal perspective as large-scale handling, and is therefore covered by the law on "measures to prevent and limit the consequences of serious chemical accidents" (SFS 1999:381). The law requires the municipality to inform individuals and companies that are at risk of being affected by a serious chemical accident. The information must show how to proceed in the event of a possible accident. This folder is therefore being distributed to households and businesses located relatively close to the propane storage.

Hydrogen is intended to gradually replace propane as the primary energy source in Ovako's furnaces, thereby significantly reducing the CO<sub>2</sub> footprint.

### **Ovako**

Ovako is a leading European manufacturer of engineering steel for customers in the bearing, transport, and manufacturing industries. We have strategically located sales offices worldwide in Europe, North America, and Asia.

Since 2019, Ovako is a subsidiary of Sanyo Special Steel and part of the Nippon Steel Corporation group, one of the world's largest steel producers with 100,000 employees globally in over 15 countries and an annual turnover of approximately 50 billion euros.

### **Propane depot**

The propane depot is owned by Ovako and is located on the eastern side of the industrial area. Propane is unloaded from railway wagons into storage tanks. From there, the propane is distributed through a pipe system to the respective production sections.

The operation is regarded as chemical handling and is therefore covered by special requirements for risk assessment and contingency planning. Approximately 9,000 tons of propane are unloaded annually at Ovako's industrial area in Hofors.

### **Supervision**

The Gävleborg County Administrative Board (Länsstyrelsen Gävleborg) performs supervision of how the company fulfils its obligations under the Seveso legislation to prevent and limit the consequences of serious chemical accidents.

Protocols from completed supervision are available in the authority's public register (diarium).

## **PROPANE**

### *How do you notice the gas?*

- Foul-smelling
- White cloud

### *How do you protect yourself?*

- Go indoors
- Avoid being near windows

### *The gas's environmental impact?*

- Propane is a non-toxic chemical and has no negative impact on air, ground, or water

## **HYDROGEN**

### *How do you notice the gas?*

- Odourless and colorless
- Light gas, rises quickly upwards
- Non-toxic

### *How do you protect yourself?*

- Go indoors
- Avoid being near windows



## What can happen?

Ovako works systematically to minimize risks within its operations. Risk analyses and risk assessments before work are carried out and documented according to current routines. However, despite extremely thorough safety management, the risk of an accident can never be ignored. A major release of, for example, propane, caused by, for instance, a hose rupture, can lead to fire or explosion and, in the worst-case scenario, tank failure. It is therefore of the utmost importance that all Hofors residents have sufficient knowledge of how to act in the event of a possible accident.

### Propane

Propane is stored in condensed form in tanks and becomes a colorless gas with a strong odour when released into the air. Propane is heavier than air and spreads along the ground. Propane is a non-toxic chemical and has no negative impact on air, ground, or water. Propane is a flammable gas that burns in a mixture with air (2-10 vol% propane in air).

### Oxygen

Characteristic of a release of liquid oxygen is a gas cloud that spreads along the ground and rapidly evaporates with intense fog formation. Oxygen is colorless, odourless, tasteless and causes no discomfort during normal exposure. The oxygen depot is owned by Linde Gas and is located west of the steel mill.

### Hydrogen

Hydrogen is produced and stored in non-condensed form, to then be used in the manufacturing processes. It is a flammable gas that burns in a mixture with air (4-75 vol% hydrogen in air). It is also a colorless and odourless gas that quickly rises upwards and mixes with the air.

### Ovako Security Service (Säkerhetstjänsten)

The Security Service has round-the-clock staffing to quickly carry out decisive efforts and measures should an accident occur. The Security Service oversees and manages several protective systems at Ovako's facilities. Examples of these protections are fire alarms, gas alarms, operational alarms, extinguishing systems, patrols, routines, and protective barriers. The Security Service regularly practices multiple scenarios. They also have regular exercises and information exchange with Gästrike Rescue Services (Gästrike Räddningstjänst).

The alarms are connected to SOS Alarm, which means that the Security Service and other resources can be quickly alerted, and current response plans can be activated immediately. At several of Ovako's alarmed facilities, Gästrike Rescue Services are activated automatically. In cases where Gästrike Rescue Services are not automatically activated, the Security Service can always request reinforcement via SOS Alarm.

### The warning signal

The signal "Important Message to the Public" (called "VMA", also commonly known as "Hesa Fredrik") can be activated in the event of a major accident within Ovako's industrial area. A propane release can occur both at the propane depot and during transport. The signal can also be used for other types of accidents. Follow the instructions via Radio P4. You are usually advised to go indoors and close doors, windows and, if possible, the ventilation. Stay away from windows. Information is also available on [krisinformation.se](http://krisinformation.se) and [hofors.se](http://hofors.se).

*Below you can see an illustration of how the signal sounds:*



### IF YOU HEAR THIS SIGNAL, TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

- Go indoors
- Close windows, doors and, if possible, ventilation
- Listen to Radio Gävleborg P4
- Read on [krisinformation.se](http://krisinformation.se) & the 112 app
- The "All Clear" signal sounds for 30-40 seconds.



**In a crisis situation, the municipality's crisis organization is activated. Information will then be published on [hofors.se](http://hofors.se). In the event of a major societal disruption, the municipality's safety points ("trygghetspunkter") are also activated, where residents can receive support and information.**

*The signal is tested on the first Monday of March, June, September, and December at 3:00 PM.*



#### If the alarm sounds...

Put yourself in safety and wait for further information via radio, [krisinformation.se](http://krisinformation.se) or the 112-app. If you want more information, contact Gästrike Rescue Services, Hofors Municipality or Ovako. Contact details can be found at the bottom of this page. All potential instructions and orders from the rescue services must be followed in the event of an accident!

#### Collaboration with Gästrike Rescue Services

Ovako and Gästrike Rescue Services have jointly developed response plans for possible accidents. These plans show how rescue efforts shall be led and carried out. Further information about these rescue efforts can be obtained on the Gästrike Rescue Services Association's website, [www.gastrikeraddningstjanst.se](http://www.gastrikeraddningstjanst.se), or from Hofors Municipality. The contingency plan that exists for possible incidents with propane handling includes, in addition to Gästrike Rescue Services, the Police, SOS Alarm, and the Ovako Security Service. This organization is a valuable resource that can also be used for other accident incidents.



#### For further information in English:

Go to [www.hofors.se](http://www.hofors.se) or [www.gastrikeraddningstjanst.se](http://www.gastrikeraddningstjanst.se)  
Search for "Farlig verksamhet".



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