

## Straight Talk about Gas Detectors

We often hear about gas monitors that supposedly require “no calibration.” That sounds pretty good doesn’t it? If only it were true! A closer look in the manuals of these monitors usually reveals a statement recommending *verification of operation* using a test gas. This is known as a BUMP test or reaction test. The manual usually goes on to state that if the instrument fails the bump test, it needs to be calibrated.

Depending on their technology, sensors can be affected by exposure to interfering gases, liquid spills, chemicals, high concentrations of the target gas, and other factors. Consequently, the sensor’s reaction can be restricted or the sensor can die prematurely.

Without applying a test gas for a bump test or a calibration to the monitor, the user has no idea if the instrument is working properly. NOT performing some kind of periodic test can lead to a false sense of security.

**Be safe. Be sure your gas monitor is functioning properly BEFORE an incident.**

**Calibration can save a life: yours.**

