

# Enabling Fuel Cell Technologies with Hydrogen Science and Engineering

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Sandia National Laboratories

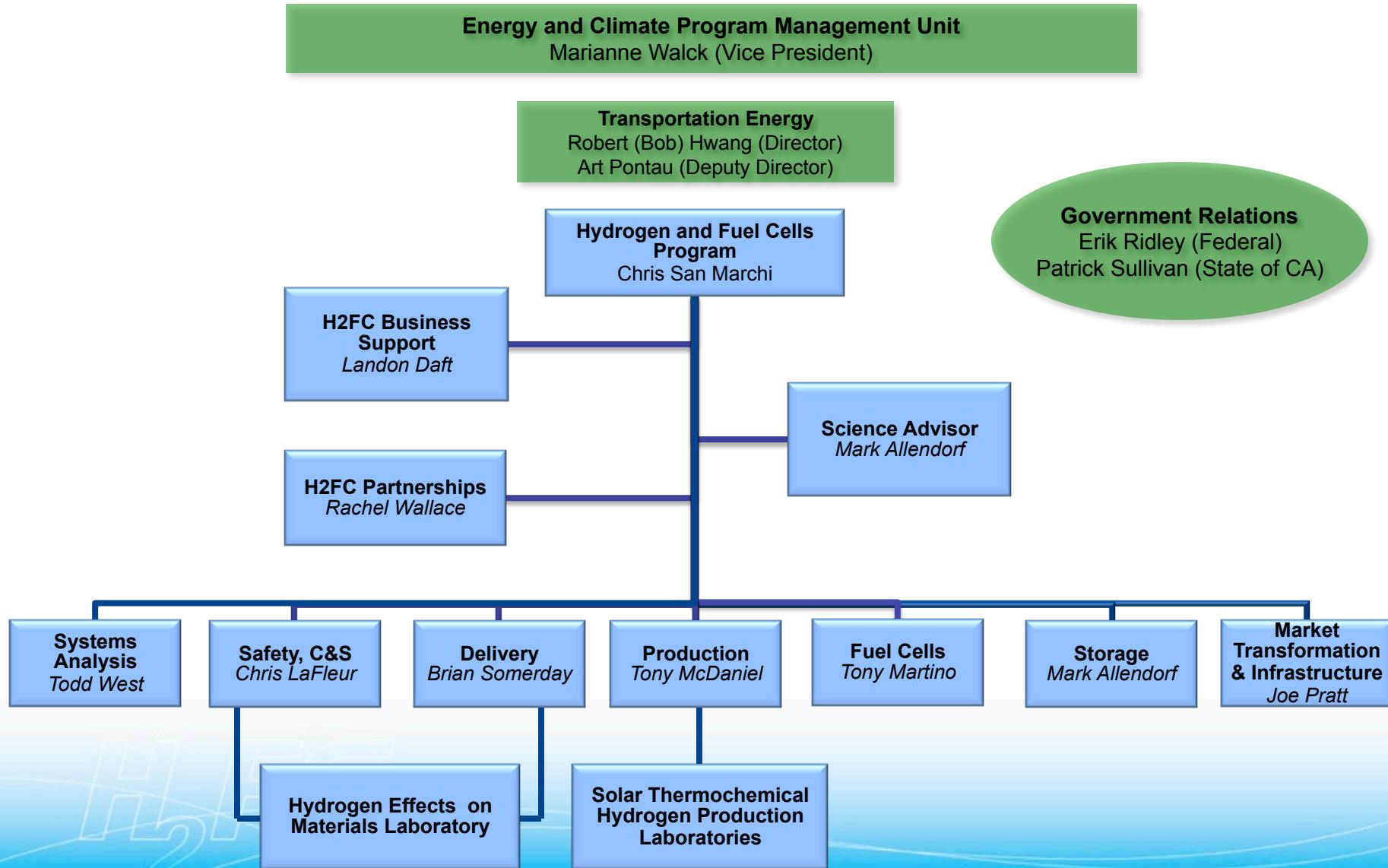
# Hydrogen capabilities at Sandia National Laboratories

- Hydrogen behavior studies
- Quantitative risk assessment (QRA)
- Hydrogen compatibility of materials and components
- Solar thermochemical hydrogen production (STCH)
- Solid-state storage materials
- Hydrogen infrastructure and systems engineering
- Membrane synthesis and development
- Scenario and technoeconomic analysis
- Advanced computing for materials and components

# Hydrogen facilities and projects at Sandia National Laboratories

- Turbulent Combustion Laboratory (TCL)
- *HyRAM* (Hydrogen Risk Assessment Models)
- Hydrogen Effects on Materials Laboratory (HEML)
- Solar Fuel Laboratory (SFL) and National Solar Thermal Test Facility (NSTTF)
- *HyMARC* (Hydrogen Materials – Advanced Materials Consortium) – joint with LLNL and LBNL
- *H2FIRST* (Hydrogen Fueling Infrastructure Research and Station Technology) – joint with NREL
- Alkaline exchange membrane synthesis and development
- Macro System Model (MSM) and Parachoice model

# Hydrogen and Fuel Cells Program at Sandia



# Hydrogen Safety, Codes and Standards program element

*Providing the science and engineering to accelerate the deployment of clean and efficient hydrogen technologies*

Hydrogen and fuel cell systems enable dramatic reductions in both GHG emissions and foreign oil dependence

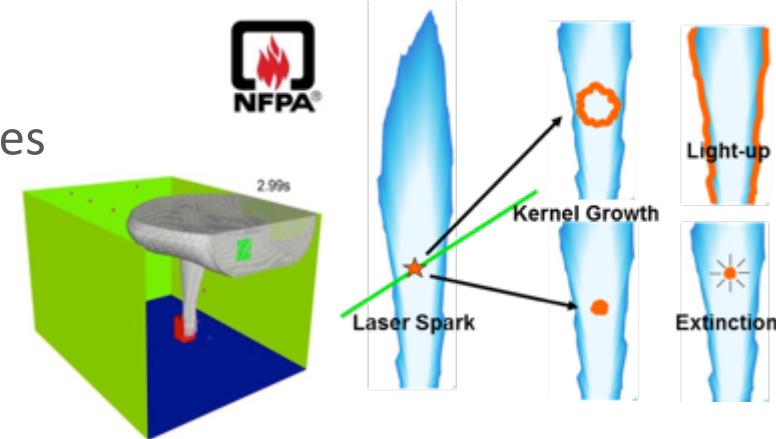
**Science-based regulations, codes and standards ensure technology requirements are consistent, logical and defensible**



# Accelerating deployments with fundamental understanding of *hydrogen behavior* and *quantitative risk assessment (QRA)*

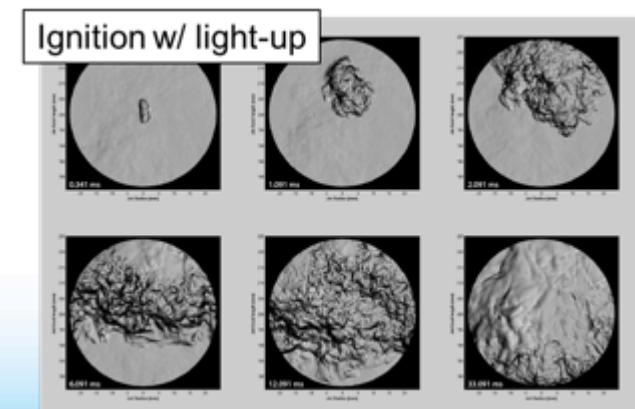
## Goal

Facilitate the safe use of hydrogen technologies by understanding and mitigating risk



## Demonstrated Impact

- Enabling the deployment of refueling stations by developing science-based, risk-informed decision making processes for specification of safety distances in existing code
- Sandia's analysis has enabled the indoor use of fuel cell powered vehicles



# *Behavior and risk models can be integrated to enable consistent (and accepted) risk assessment process*

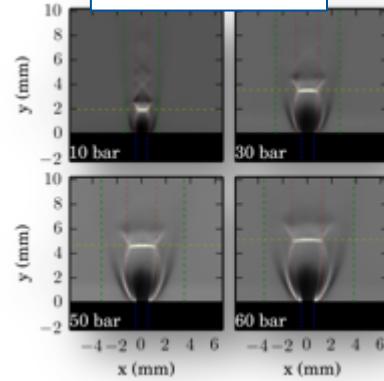
*risk*



*application*



*behavior*



**Develop integrated methods and algorithms**

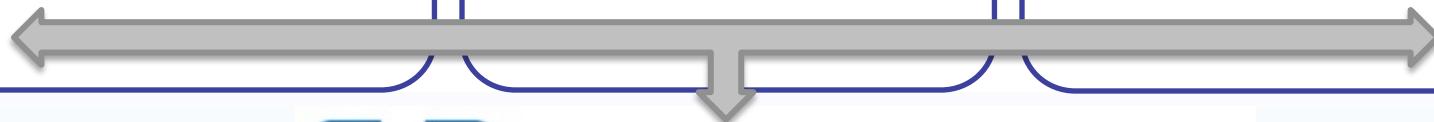
for enabling consistent, logical and defensible QRA

**Apply quantitative risk assessment techniques**

in real hydrogen infrastructure and emerging technology

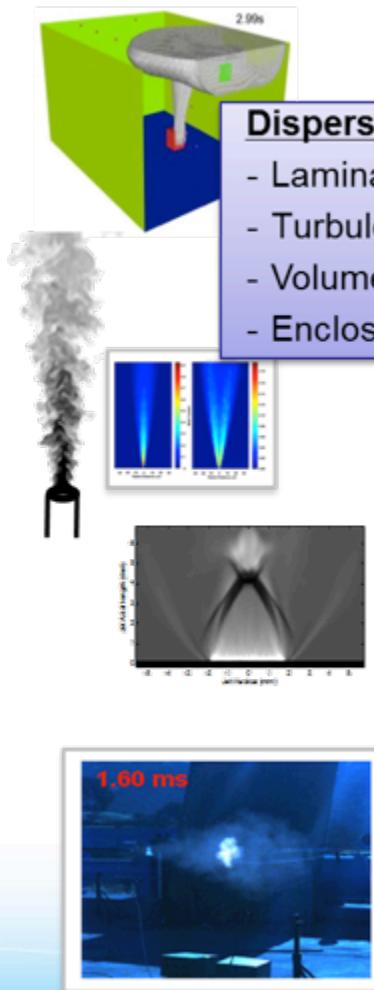
**Develop and validate scientific models**

to accurately predict hazards and harm from liquid releases, flames, etc.



# R&D for Hydrogen Safety, Codes and Standards

## Hydrogen Behavior



### Physics (deterministic)

### Probability

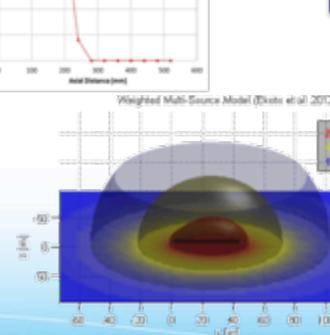
### Consequence (deterministic)

#### Ignition Probability

- Ignition mechanism
- Mixture ignitability
- Ignition delay/location
- Sustained light-up

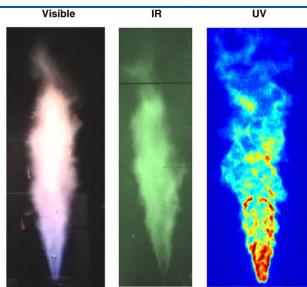
#### Hazard Characteristics

- Flame radiation
- Overpressure (deflagration/detonation)
- O<sub>2</sub> dilution/depletion



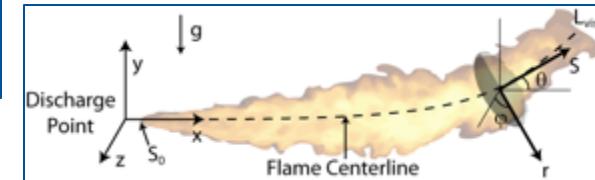
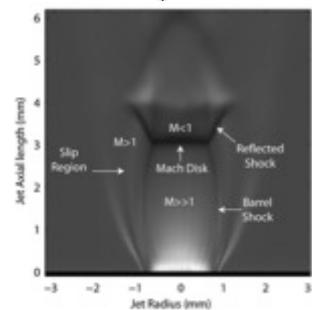
# Hydrogen Behavior studies enable predictive capabilities

Radiative properties of H<sub>2</sub> flames quantified



Barrier walls for risk reduction

Ignition of under-expanded H<sub>2</sub> jets



Buoyant jet flame model with multi-source radiation

2005

2007

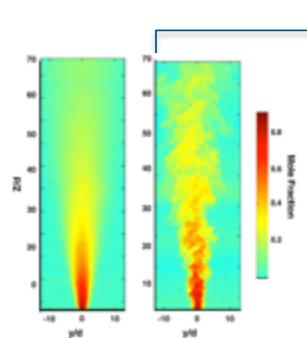
2009

2011

2013

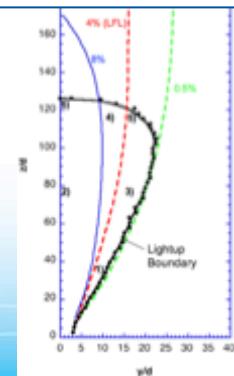
2015

2017

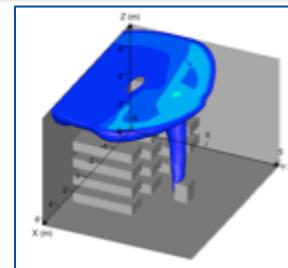


Advanced laser diagnostics applied to turbulent H<sub>2</sub> combustion

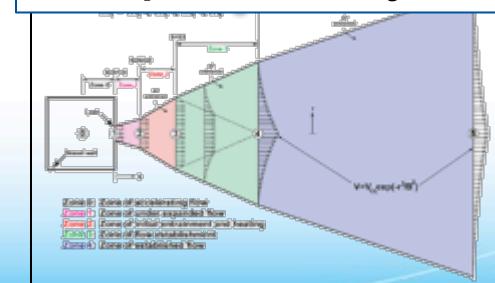
Ignition limits of turbulent H<sub>2</sub> flows



Experiment and simulation of indoor H<sub>2</sub> releases

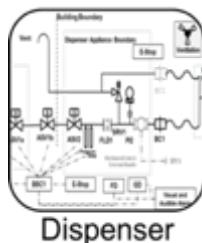
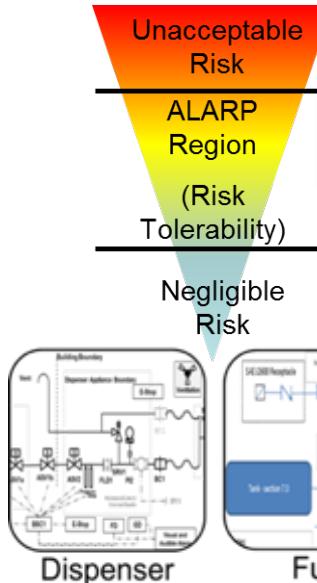


Laboratory-scale characterization of LH<sub>2</sub> plumes and jets



# R&D for Hydrogen Safety, Codes and Standards

## Quantitative Risk Assessment (QRA)



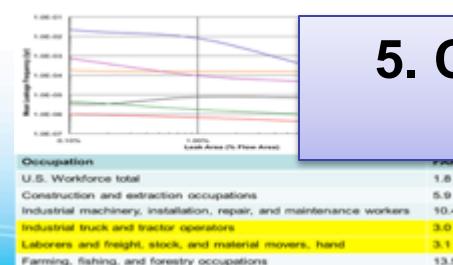
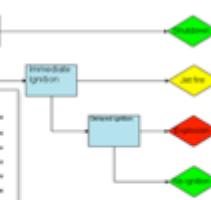
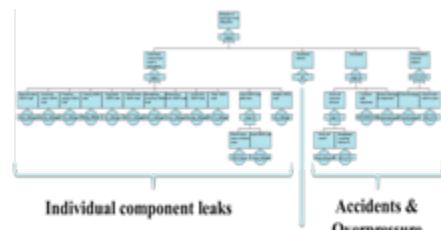
### 1. Set analysis goals

### 2. System & hazard description

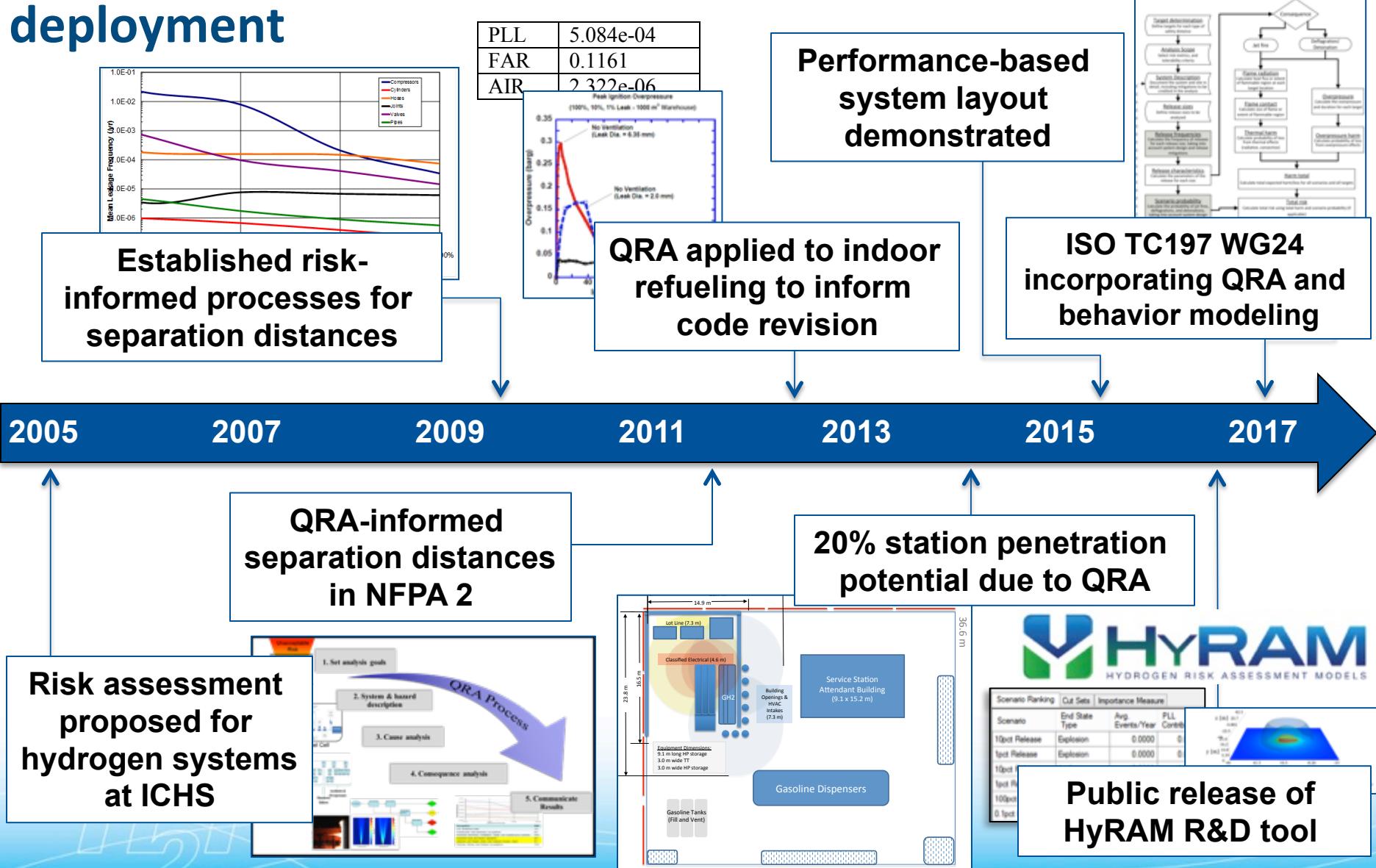
### 3. Cause analysis

### 4. Consequence analysis

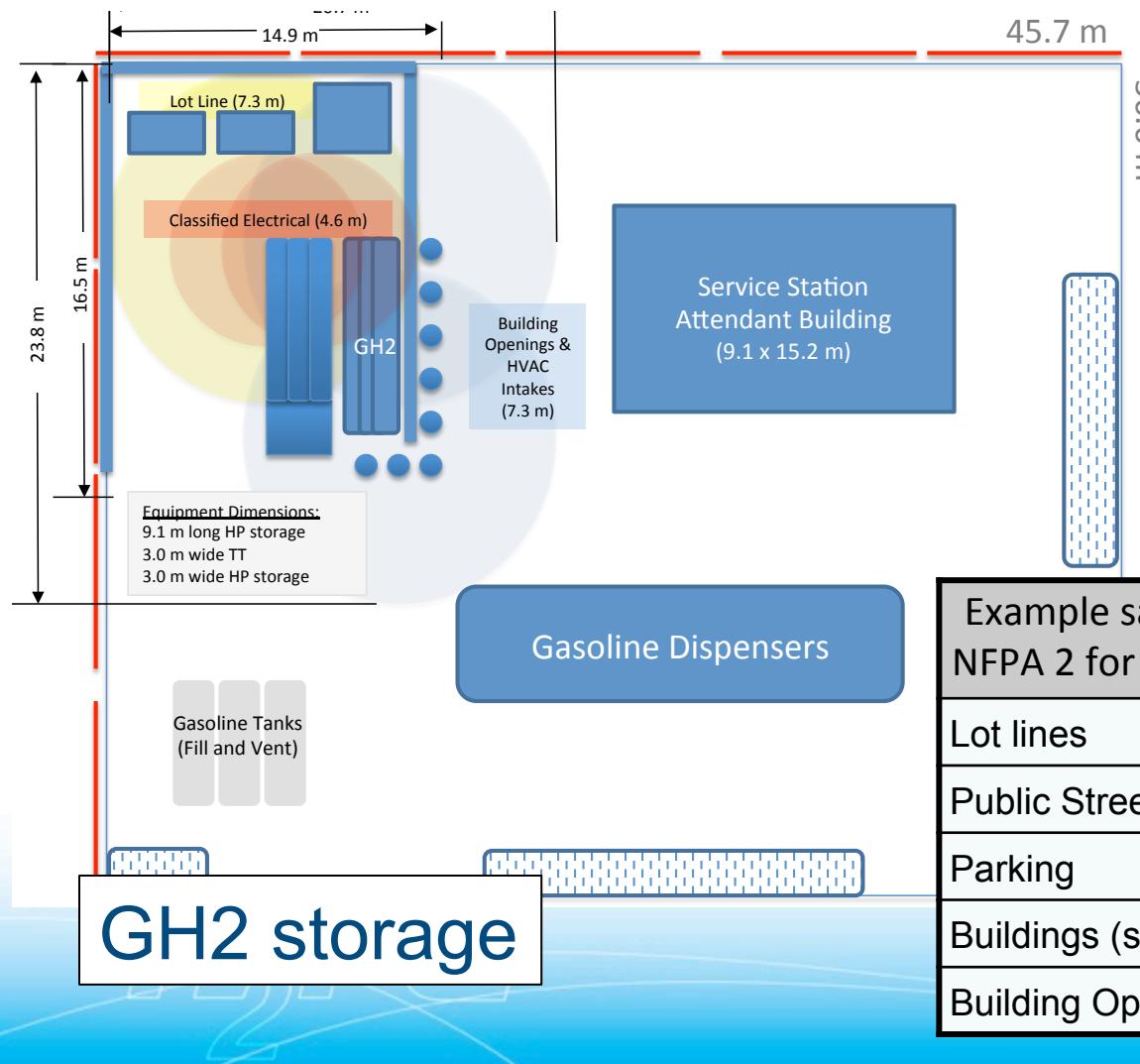
### 5. Communicate Results



# Quantitative Risk Assessment is enabling infrastructure deployment



# Fire protection code reduced safety distances based on risk-informed, science-based methodology



*Outcome: initial safety distances precluded GH2 at existing fueling stations, science-based distances enable the acceptance of GHS at up to 20% of sites*

Harris et al. SAND2014-3416

Example safety distances (m) NFPA 2 for specific boundaries	GH2	LH2
Lot lines	7.3	10.1
Public Streets, Alleys	7.3	10.1
Parking	4.0	22.9
Buildings (sprinkled, fire rated)	3.0	1.5
Building Openings or air intakes	7.3	22.9

# Future challenge:

## Safety distances for liquid H<sub>2</sub> storage are too large for commercial fueling stations in the US

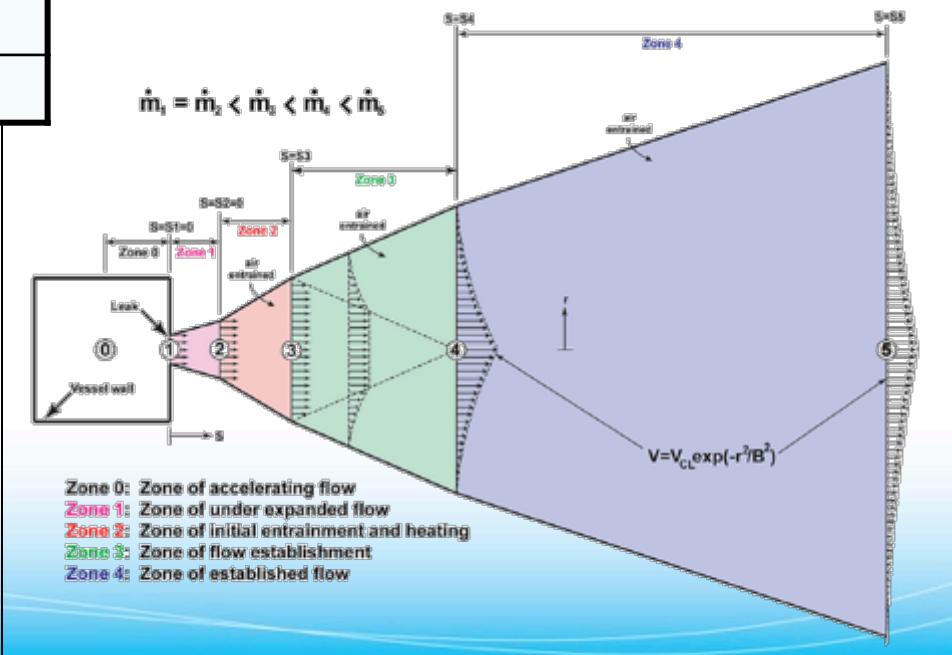
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Harris et al. SAND2014-3416

**Validated models of LH<sub>2</sub> releases integrated into the QRA framework will inform quantification of risk and aid the definition of safety distances**

**Goal: use science-based approach to inform safety distances for LH<sub>2</sub>**

- NFPA activity



# Leadership in materials and components for hydrogen service

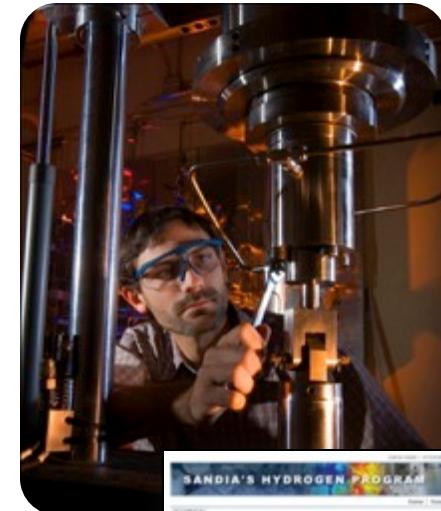
## Goal

Develop and characterize high-performance, hydrogen containment materials to lower capital cost of hydrogen infrastructure, systems and components



## Demonstrated Impact

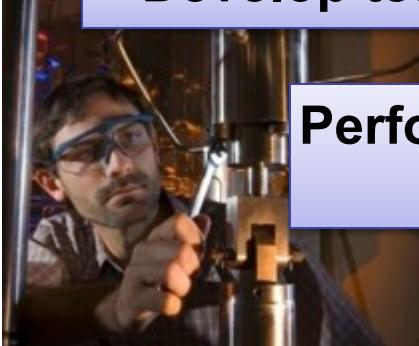
- Enabled worldwide deployment of hydrogen and fuel cell systems by developing science-based standards
- Technology roadmaps
- Databases
- Leveraged research



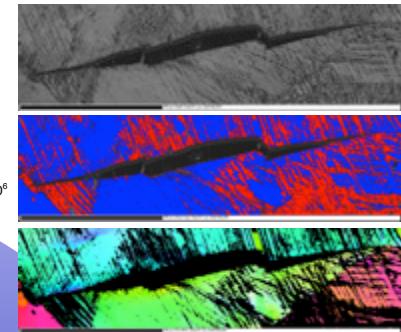
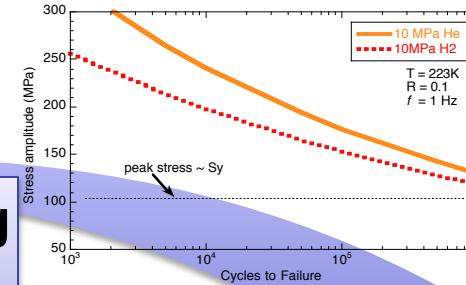
# R&D for Hydrogen Safety, Codes and Standards

## Materials Compatibility and Suitability

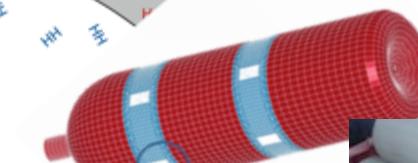
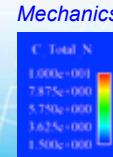
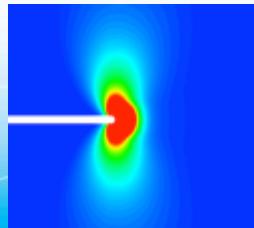
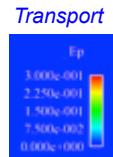
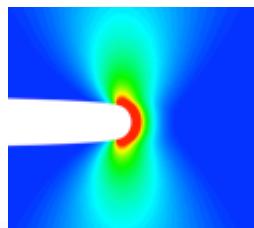
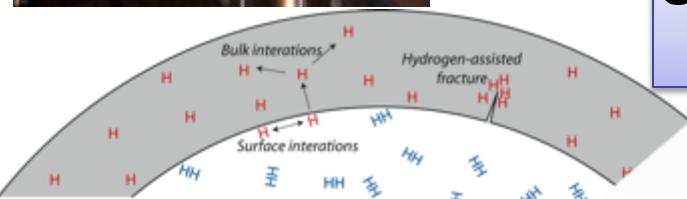
Develop test methods



Performance-based testing  
(compatibility)

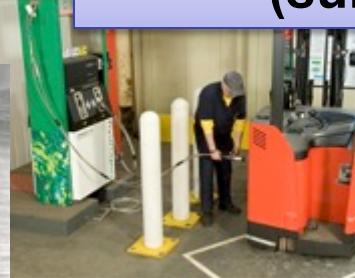


Understanding physics of  
hydrogen embrittlement



Predictive models

System validation  
(suitability)

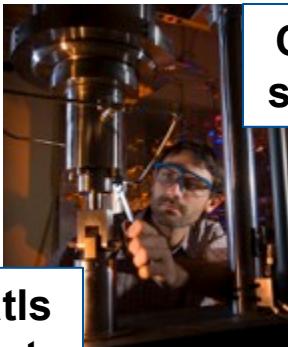


# Evaluation of *Materials Compatibility* enables innovative technologies

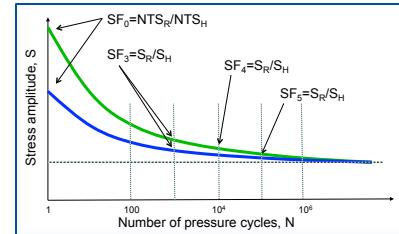
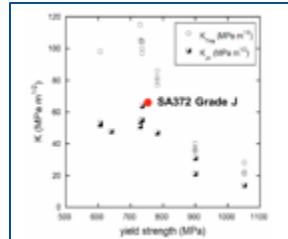
**ASME article KD-10  
input on test  
methodology**



**Platform for matls  
testing in GH2 at  
high pressure**



**Critical assessment of  
statically loaded cracks**



**CSA CHMC1  
test methods and  
matls qualification**

**2005**

**2007**

**2009**

**2011**

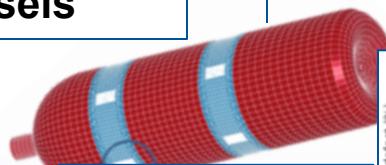
**2013**

**2015**

**2017**



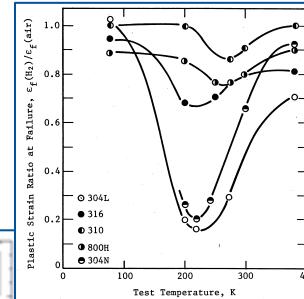
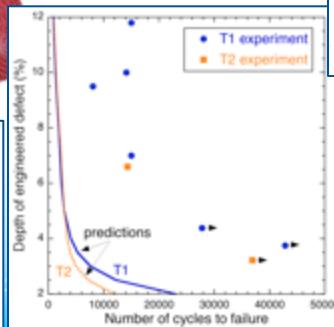
**First qualification data  
for high-pressure  
ASME vessels**



**Technical Reference  
established**

Sandia National Laboratories

**Full-scale  
tank testing  
CSA HPIT1  
SAE J2579**



**Platform for high-  
pressure GH2 over  
temperature range  
(-40°C to +85°C)**

# Full-scale testing of pressure vessels enabled deployment of safe, low-cost fuel cell forklift fuel systems



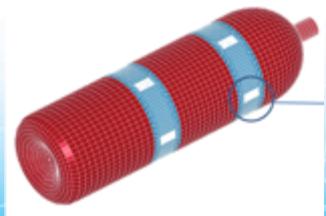
plugpower  
NUVERA  
FUEL CELLS



We quantified uncertainties in the cycle life of hydrogen storage tanks for the lift-truck application.



example of embrittlement failure from the 1970's



- Enhanced safety and market growth enabled through standards development



- Today, there are >15,000 clean and efficient fuel cell forklifts in service (and growing!)

# Summary

Diverse portfolio of hydrogen activities at Sandia, including R&D for Safety, Codes and Standards:

- Hydrogen behavior models enable safety analysis
  - Validated, defensible, referenceable models
- QRA framework enables scientific basis for revision of code requirements
  - Consistent, logical framework for quantifying risk and applying to decision making processes
- Understanding of materials performance enables deployment of innovative technologies
  - Accommodate hydrogen effects by quantification of materials behavior in relevant hydrogen environments