

# Hydrogen Risk Assessment Models 2.0: Open-source quantitative risk assessment framework



**Brian D. Ehrhart, Ethan S. Hecht, Alice B. Muna, and Chris B. LaFleur**  
Sandia National Laboratories  
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# Authorities look to NFPA 2 for standards on how to site hydrogen fueling stations

Prescribed separation distances:

- Different distances for different exposures
- Some distances able to be reduced with mitigations
- Justification for some (gaseous) separation distances provided in annex
  - ✓ Separation distance reductions in NFPA 2 2011 and again in 2020 enabled by Sandia-led scientific analyses

Or alternative means and measures:

- Demonstrate acceptable protections and risk for non-compliance to prescribed separation distance(s) to authority having jurisdiction (AHJ)
- Typically: all requirements can be met except a few

Or full performance-based design:

- Simulate all required design scenarios in NFPA 2 Chapter 5
- Typically: non-standard designs

2-42 HYDROGEN TECHNOLOGIES CODE								
Table 7.3.2.3.1.1(a) Minimum Distance (D) from Outdoor [GH <sub>2</sub> ] Systems to Exposures — Typical Maximum Pipe Size								
Pressure	>15 to ≤250 psig		>250 to ≤3000 psig		>3000 to ≤7500 psig		>7500 to ≤15000 psig	
Internal Pipe Diameter (ID) <i>d<sub>mm</sub></i>	>0.34 to ≤724 kPa <i>d = 52.5 mm</i>		>1724 to ≤20,684 kPa <i>d = 18.97 mm</i>		>20,684 to ≤51,711 kPa <i>d = 7.31 mm</i>		>51,711 to ≤103,421 kPa <i>d = 7.16 mm</i>	
Group 1 Exposures	m	ft	m	ft	m	ft	m	ft
(a) Lot lines	12	40	14	46	9	29	10	34
(b) Air intakes (HVAC, compressors, other)								
(c) Operable openings in buildings and structures								
(d) Ignition sources such as open flames and welding								
Group 2 Exposures	m	ft	m	ft	m	ft	m	ft
(a) Exposed persons other than those servicing the system	6	20	7	24	4	13	5	16
(b) Parked cars								
Group 3 Exposures	m	ft	m	ft	m	ft	m	ft
(a) Buildings of noncombustible non-fire-rated construction	5	17	6	19	4	12	4	14
(b) Buildings of combustible construction								

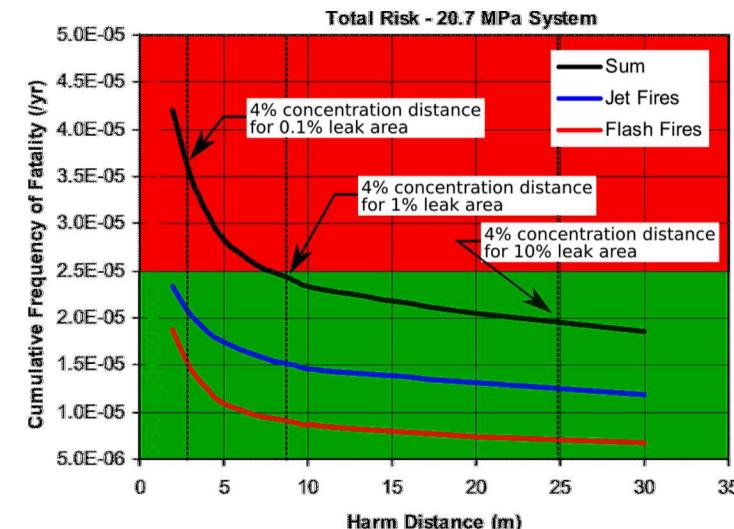
2-58 HYDROGEN TECHNOLOGIES CODE						
Table 8.3.2.3.1.6(A) Minimum Distance from Bulk Liquefied Hydrogen [LH <sub>2</sub> ] Systems to Exposures						
Type of Exposure	Total Bulk Liquefied Hydrogen [LH <sub>2</sub> ] Storage					
	39.7 gal to 3500 gal	150 L to 13,250 L	3501 gal to 15,000 gal	13,251 L to 56,781 L	15,001 gal to 75,000 gal	56,782 L to 283,906 L
Group 1	ft	m	ft	m	ft	m
1. Lot lines	25	7.6	50	15	75	23
2. Air intakes [heating, ventilating, or air conditioning equipment (HVAC, compressors, other)]	75	23	75	23	75	23
3. Wall openings						
4. Operable openings in buildings and structures	75	23	75	23	75	23
4. Ignition sources such as open flames and welding	50	15	50	15	50	15
Group 2						
5. Places of public assembly	75	23	75	23	75	23
6. Parked cars (distance shall be measured from the container fill connection)	25	7.6	25	7.6	25	7.6
Group 3						
7. Building or structure						
7. (a) Buildings constructed of noncombustible or limited-combustible materials						
7. (b) Sprinklered building or structure or unsprinklered building or structure having	5 <sup>o</sup>	1.5	5 <sup>o</sup>	1.5	5 <sup>o</sup>	1.5

# Risk Assessment Concept

- Risk takes **scenarios**, **likelihood**, and **consequence** into account
- **Scenarios** enumerate what could happen
  - What can go wrong?
- **Likelihood** measures how often or how probable an event is
  - Frequency (events per year)
  - Probability
- **Consequence** measures the effects of the event occurring
  - Heat flux or overpressure
  - Fatalities/injuries
- Event with the highest risk may not be the most likely and it may not be the worst-case outcome
  - Combination of all three

# Risk can be used to inform siting decisions (AM&M) and/or separation distances

- Overall risk assessment for siting/codes
  - Assume a representative facility
  - Assess the fatality risk of that facility
  - Compare risk to existing/equivalent hazardous activity
    - e.g.,  $2 \times 10^{-5}$ /yr risk at gasoline station
- Leak frequencies determine leak size of interest
  - 1-10% of pipe area estimated to include 97-98% of all leaks
  - 3% pipe area used for 2011 Ed., 1% for 2020 Ed.
- H<sub>2</sub> behavior models to estimate effect of leak
  - Jet flame determines heat flux at distances away from leak
  - Harm criteria to determine distance for setback
  - 2011 Ed. assumed no-harm criteria with no mitigation
  - 2020 Ed. assumes bystander could move away



Modified version of plot from SAND2009-0874

# HyRAM: Making hydrogen safety science accessible through integrated tools

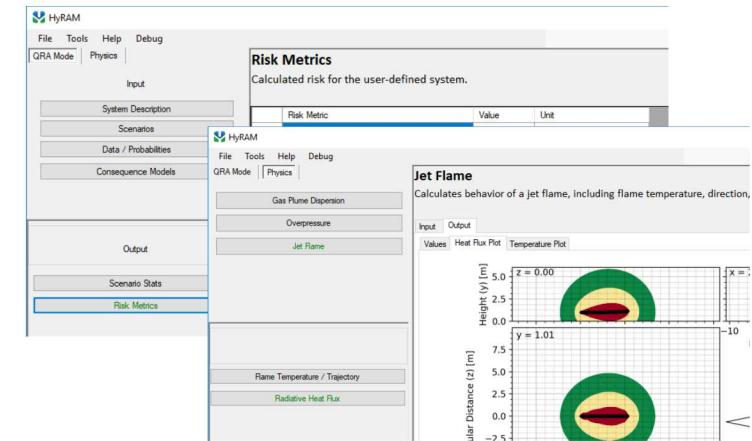
**First-of-its-kind integration platform for state-of-the-art hydrogen safety models & data - built to put the R&D into the hands of industry safety experts**

## Core functionality:

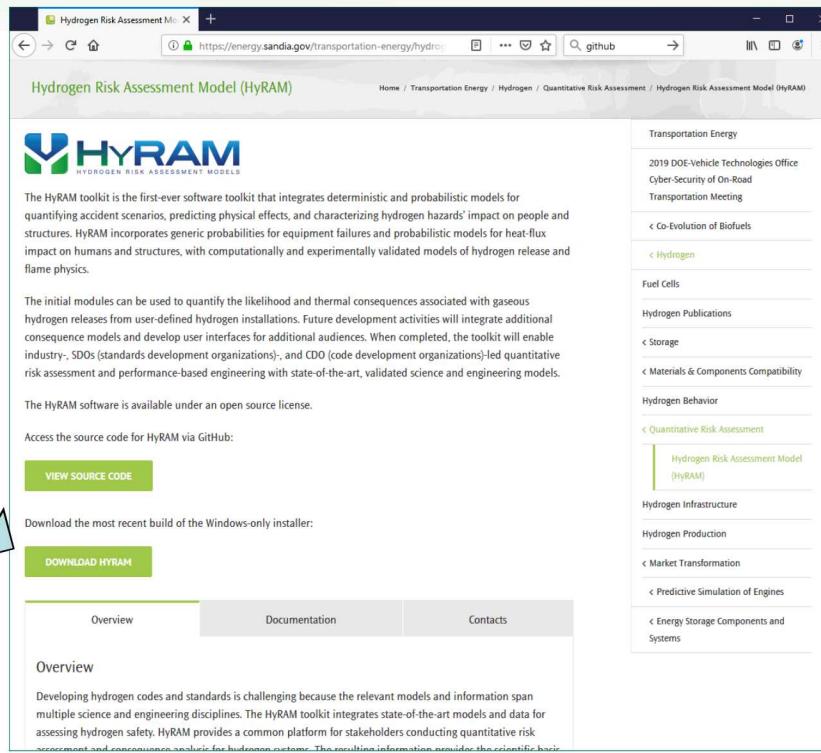
- Quantitative risk assessment (QRA) methodology
- Frequency & probability data for hydrogen component failures
- Fast-running models of hydrogen gas and flame behaviors

## Key features:

- GUI & Mathematics Middleware
- Documented approach, models, algorithms
- Flexible and expandable framework; supported by active R&D



# HyRAM 2.0 can be installed as a Windows executable and as an open-source software, users have access to the source code



Hydrogen Risk Assessment Model (HyRAM)

**HYRAM**  
HYDROGEN RISK ASSESSMENT MODELS

The HyRAM toolkit is the first-ever software toolkit that integrates deterministic and probabilistic models for quantifying accident scenarios, predicting physical effects, and characterizing hydrogen hazards' impact on people and structures. HyRAM incorporates generic probabilities for equipment failures and probabilistic models for heat-flux impact on humans and structures, with computationally and experimentally validated models of hydrogen release and flame physics.

The initial modules can be used to quantify the likelihood and thermal consequences associated with gaseous hydrogen releases from user-defined hydrogen installations. Future development activities will integrate additional consequence models and develop user interfaces for additional audiences. When completed, the toolkit will enable industry-, SDOs (standards development organizations), and CDO (code development organizations)-led quantitative risk assessment and performance-based engineering with state-of-the-art, validated science and engineering models.

The HyRAM software is available under an open source license.

Access the source code for HyRAM via GitHub:

[VIEW SOURCE CODE](#)

Download the most recent build of the Windows-only installer:

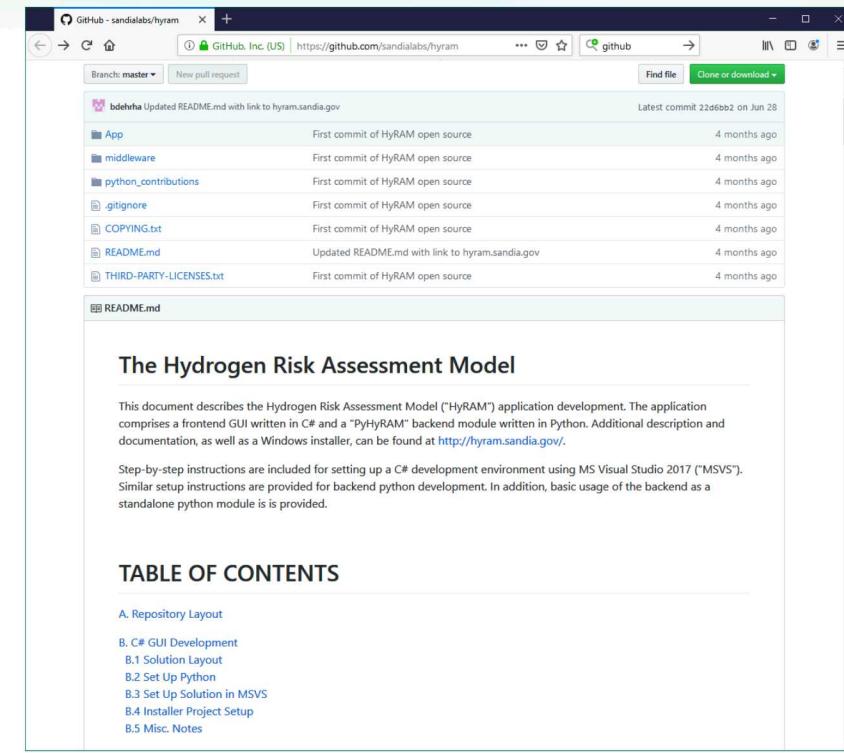
[DOWNLOAD HYRAM](#)

Overview Documentation Contacts

Overview

Developing hydrogen codes and standards is challenging because the relevant models and information span multiple science and engineering disciplines. The HyRAM toolkit integrates state-of-the-art models and data for assessing hydrogen safety. HyRAM provides a common platform for stakeholders conducting quantitative risk assessment and consequence analysis for hydrogen systems. The resulting information enables the scientific basis

[hyram.sandia.gov](http://hyram.sandia.gov)



GitHub - sandialabs/hyram

Branch: master New pull request

Latest commit 22d6eb2 on Jun 28

File	Commit Message	Time Ago
App	First commit of HyRAM open source	4 months ago
middleware	First commit of HyRAM open source	4 months ago
python_contributions	First commit of HyRAM open source	4 months ago
.gitignore	First commit of HyRAM open source	4 months ago
COPYING.txt	First commit of HyRAM open source	4 months ago
README.md	Updated README.md with link to hyram.sandia.gov	4 months ago
THIRD-PARTY-LICENSES.txt	First commit of HyRAM open source	4 months ago

[README.md](#)

## The Hydrogen Risk Assessment Model

This document describes the Hydrogen Risk Assessment Model ("HyRAM") application development. The application comprises a frontend GUI written in C# and a "PyHyRAM" backend module written in Python. Additional description and documentation, as well as a Windows installer, can be found at <http://hyram.sandia.gov/>.

Step-by-step instructions are included for setting up a C# development environment using MS Visual Studio 2017 ("MSVS"). Similar setup instructions are provided for backend python development. In addition, basic usage of the backend as a standalone python module is provided.

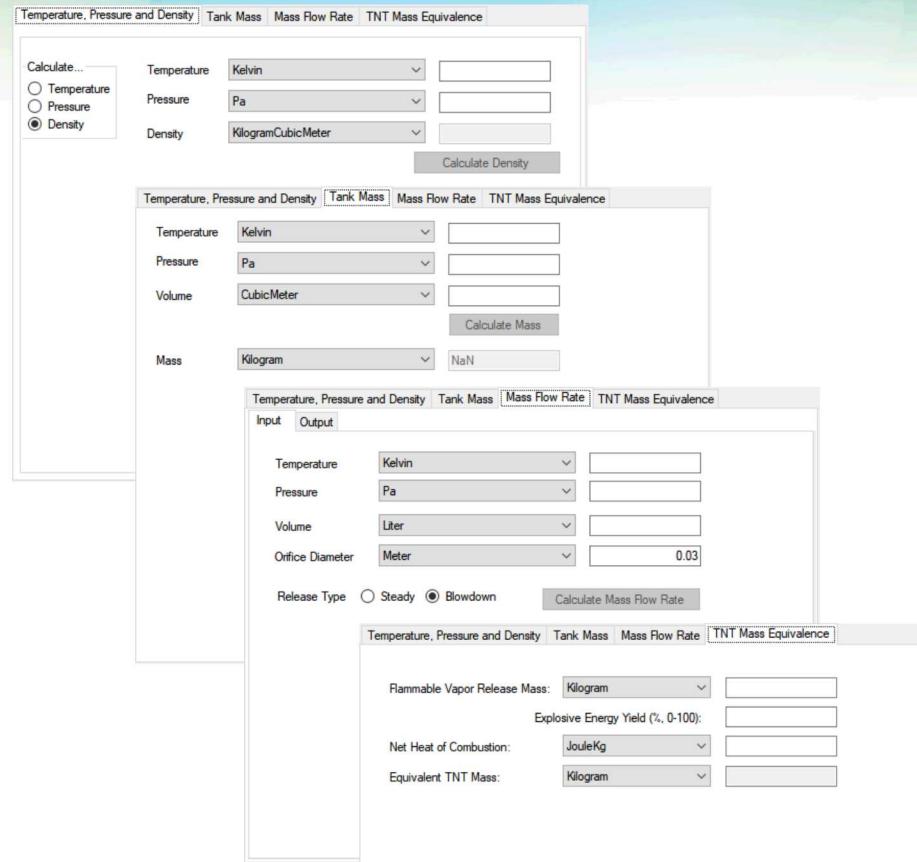
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  - [B.4 Installer Project Setup](#)
  - [B.5 Misc. Notes](#)

[github.com/sandialabs/hyram](https://github.com/sandialabs/hyram)

# HyRAM GUI contains an Engineering Toolkit for common calculations

- Equation of state (density,  $T$ ,  $P$ )
- Tank mass
- Mass flow rate (blowdown)
- TNT mass equivalence
- Valid for high pressures and near-ambient temperatures
  - Soon to be updated for cryogenic temperatures

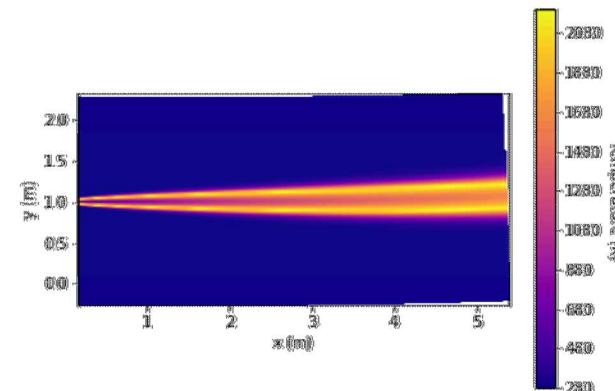
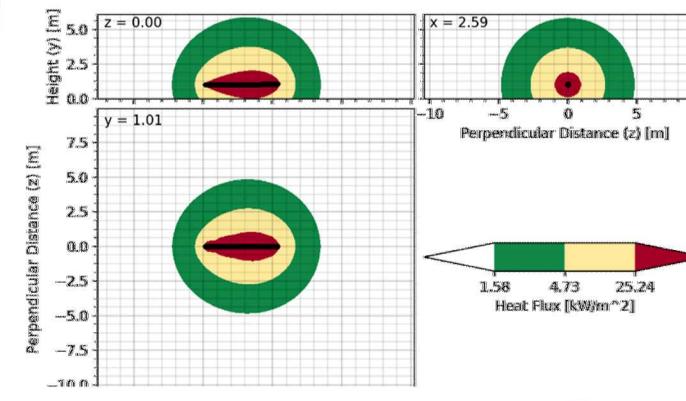
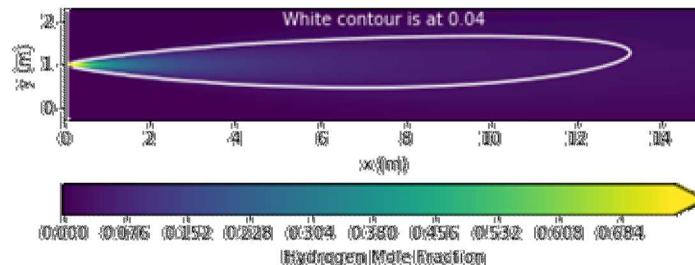


The figure displays four separate windows of the HyRAM GUI, each representing a different calculation tool:

- Temperature, Pressure and Density:** This tool allows users to calculate density given temperature and pressure, or calculate temperature or pressure given density. It includes dropdown menus for units (e.g., Kelvin, Pa, KilogramCubicMeter) and a "Calculate Density" button.
- Tank Mass:** This tool allows users to calculate tank mass given temperature, pressure, and volume. It includes dropdown menus for units (e.g., Kelvin, Pa, CubicMeter) and a "Calculate Mass" button.
- Mass Flow Rate:** This tool allows users to calculate mass flow rate given temperature, pressure, volume, and orifice diameter. It includes dropdown menus for units (e.g., Kelvin, Pa, Liter, Meter) and a "Calculate Mass Flow Rate" button. The "Release Type" section includes options for "Steady" and "Blowdown".
- TNT Mass Equivalence:** This tool allows users to calculate equivalent TNT mass given flammable vapor release mass, explosive energy yield, net heat of combustion, and equivalent TNT mass. It includes dropdown menus for units (e.g., Kilogram, JouleKg, Kilogram) and a "Calculate TNT Mass" button.

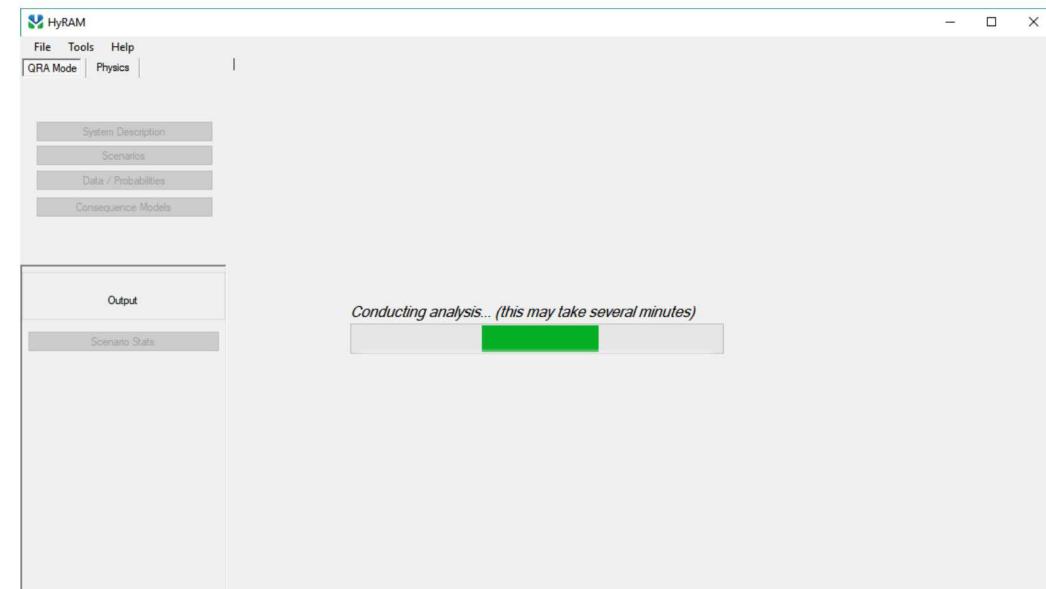
# A variety of validated physical models are used in HyRAM, which can be used independently from QRA

- Unignited dispersion
  - Distance to certain concentration
- Flame model
  - Temperature field
  - Heat flux field
- Overpressure for delayed



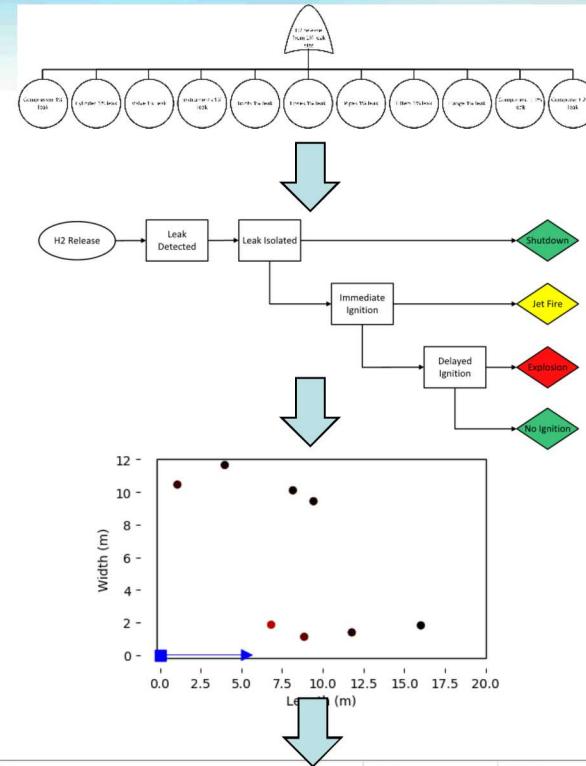
# HyRAM 2.0 enables consistent, traceable, and rigorous QRA for specific systems

- ✓ User inputs system description
  - ✓ Number of components
  - ✓ Pressure
  - ✓ Nominal pipe size
- ✓ Generic probabilities can be updated if data is available
- ✓ Consequence models can be selected
- Risk metrics calculated
- Analysis can be saved



# QRA estimates frequency and consequence for different leak sizes

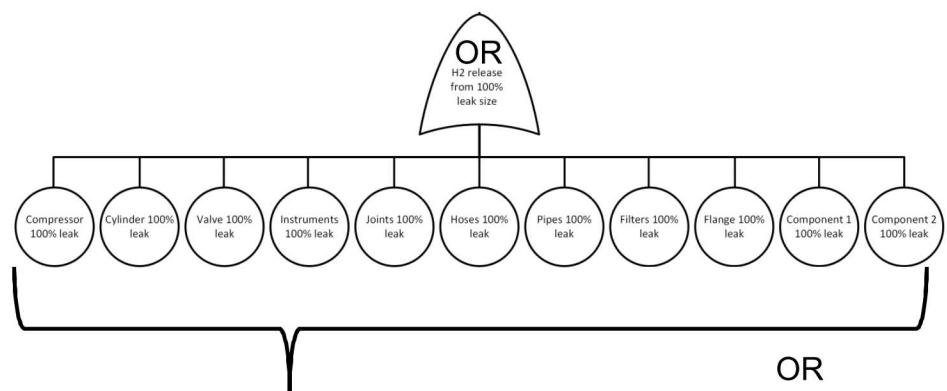
- Frequency of Leak
  - 0.01%, 0.1%, 1%, 10%, 100%
- Probability of Outcome
  - Shutdown, jet fire, explosion, no ignition
- Calculate Effects
  - E.g., thermal heat flux to occupant
- Estimate Harm
  - Probability of fatality based on effects
- Risk Metrics
  - 20 Scenarios



Risk Metric	Value	Unit
Potential Loss of Life (PLL)	1.246E-005	Fatalities/system-year
Fatal Accident Rate (FAR)	1.580E-002	Fatalities in 10 <sup>8</sup> person-hours
Average individual risk (AIR)	3.160E-007	Fatalities/year

# Fault tree demonstrates how leak frequencies are combined

OR



**Individual component leak frequencies**  
(multiplied by number of components)

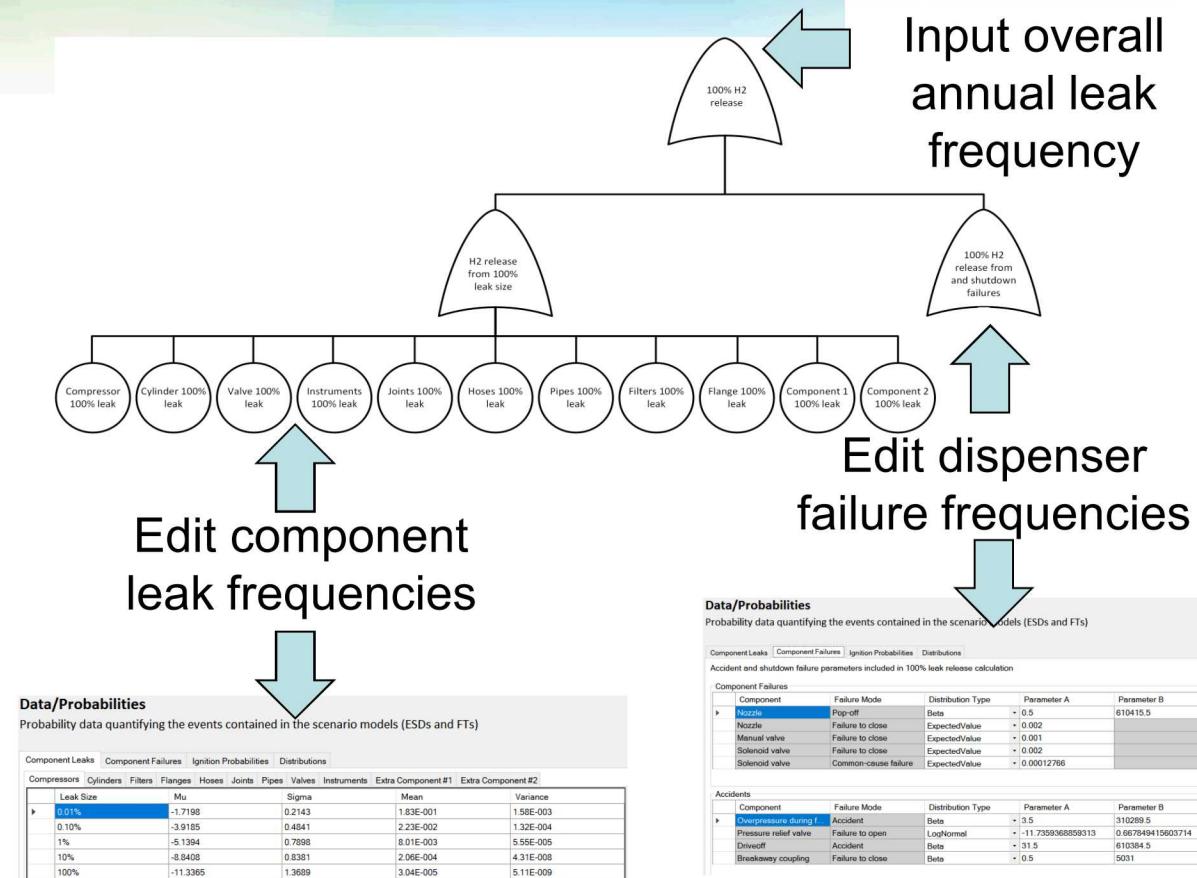
OR

AND

**Fueling dispenser failure**  
(multiplied by number of fueling demands)  
*100% leak only*

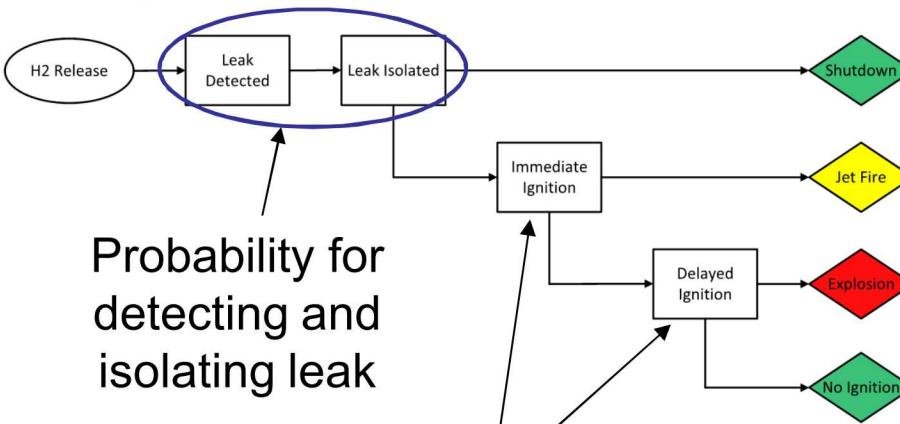
# Model enables more flexible QRA

- Users can edit parameters of existing fault tree or substitute their user-defined results
  - Could come from external fault tree software
  - Could be due to historical system performance
- Can be done independently for each of the 5 leak sizes
- Updated HyRAM methodology enables users to alter the risk analysis for different applications



# Leak consequence determined with event diagram and probabilities

For a given hydrogen leak...



Probability for detecting and isolating leak

Probability of immediate or delayed ignition  
(varies with flow rate)

- Immediate ignition
  - Jet fire (thermal hazard)
  - Effect depends on occupant position
- Delayed ignition
  - Overpressure hazard
  - Not currently implemented fully
- For each hazard:
  - Probability of fatality for a given level of physical hazard
- Overall risk: total of all scenarios
  - Detailed results indicate what scenarios are driving overall risk

# Underlying Python modules can be inspected, modified, and used independently

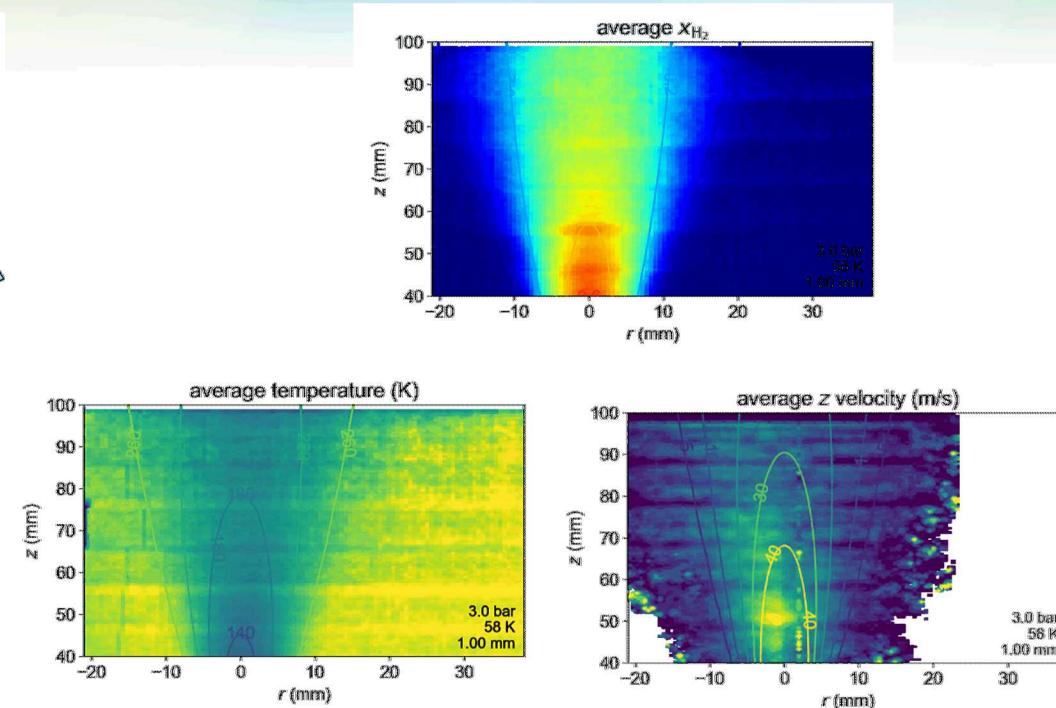
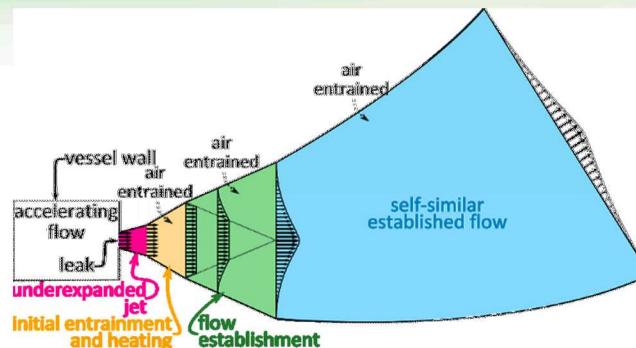
- Physics modules based on intuitive object oriented structure
- Implemented as a python package
- Additional details of simulations can be explored
- First access to upcoming module releases
- Incorporation of user-preferred physics models possible

```
from altRAM import phys

H2 = phys.Fluid(T = 40, P = 5e5)
air = phys.Fluid(T = 295, P = 101325, species = 'air')
orifice = phys.Orifice(d = 0.001)
release = phys.Jet(H2, orifice, air)
```

```
release.plot_moleFrac_Contour(xlims = (0, 3), ylims = (-1, 1));
```

# Upcoming ColdPLUME model has been validated with laboratory data



- Experimental results shown by shading and thick, dashed lines
- ColdPLUME model results are thin, solid lines

➤ Model accurately simulates mole fraction, temperature, and velocity - can be used as predictive tool

## Upcoming additions to HyRAM

- Validated physics models for hydrogen behaviors
  - Liquid/cryogenic release behavior
  - Deflagration (unconfined) and detonation models
  - Flow/flame surface interactions
  - Pooling and vaporization
  - Barrier walls
  - Ignition
- Additional data/probabilities
  - Liquid hydrogen system component failures and leak frequencies
  - Effectiveness of detection
- Quantify risk reduction from hydrogen system mitigation features
- Extension to other fuels (e.g., CNG, LNG)



## Summary

- HyRAM 2.0 is an open-source toolkit for QRA or physics simulations of hydrogen systems
- QRA and physics simulations can be used to inform siting decisions or separation distances
- Underlying source code can be used to explore the details of the calculations
- Sandia team is working to expand and enhance the toolkit
- External use, feedback, and development is welcomed and encouraged





[hyram.sandia.gov](http://hyram.sandia.gov)

**Thank you!**

Brian Ehrhart  
Sandia National Laboratories  
[bdehrha@sandia.gov](mailto:bdehrha@sandia.gov)

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(EERE/FCTO)



# TECHNICAL BACK-UP SLIDES

# Benefits of Reduced-Order Models

- Short run-time
- Modeling expert not required
- Useful for quantification
  - If a hydrogen leak occurs, how far away does the hazard get?
- Useful for comparisons
  - What is the effect on safety is a system size is reduced?

