



HEALTH & SAFETY  
LABORATORY



# **PRESLHY: Final Plan WP4**

**15/10/18**

Jonathan Hall



# Experimental Programme (at HSL)

- WP3: Unignited releases focussing on dispersion / source term
- WP4: Ignition phenomena focussing on electrostatics / condensed phase initiation / rapid phase transition
- WP5: Combustion characteristics including semi-confined / congested regions



# WP4

- The key objective is to examine electrostatic charging in liquefied/multiphase mixtures; and ignition sensitivity of energetic multiphase mixtures of hydrogen and oxygen
  - **E4.3 Electrostatic measurement of cold plume (focussing on accidental spillage scenarios)**
  - **E4.5 Ignition of H<sub>2</sub>/condensed O<sub>2</sub> phase**



# WP4 - Electrostatic plume measurement

Work Package	Experimental Subtask	Test No.	Experiment Title	Release Orifice	Insulated Pipe Length	Field Measurement Method
4	4.3	4.3.1 (Test 3.5.3)	Electrostatic plume measurement	¼"	1.0 m	Faraday cage
4	4.3	4.3.2 (Test 3.5.3)	Electrostatic plume measurement	¼"	1.0 m	Field meter
4	4.3	4.3.3 (Test 3.5.1)	Electrostatic plume measurement	1"	1.0 m	Faraday cage
4	4.3	4.3.4 (Test 3.5.1)	Electrostatic plume measurement	1"	1.0 m	Field meter
4	4.3	4.3.5	Electrostatic plume measurement	1"	4.0 m	Faraday cage
4	4.3	4.3.6	Electrostatic plume measurement	1"	4.0 m	Field meter

Some release conditions will be as for WP3, **3.5.1** and **3.5.3**

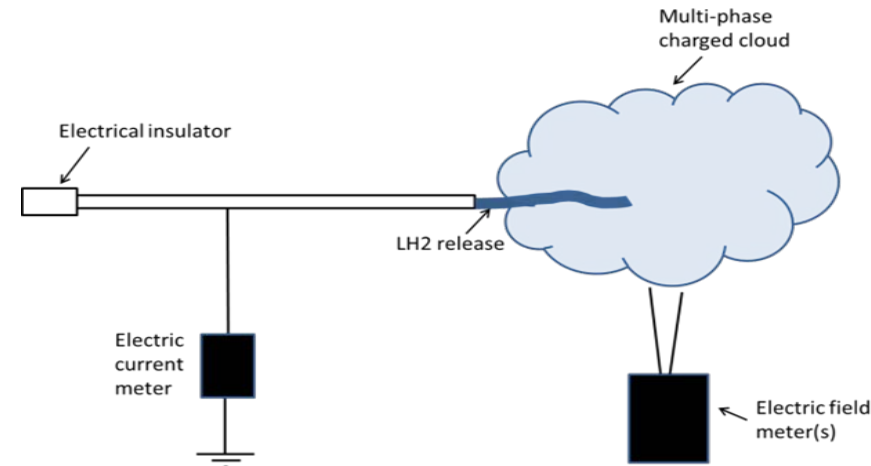


## WP4 - Electrostatic plume measurement – Field meter



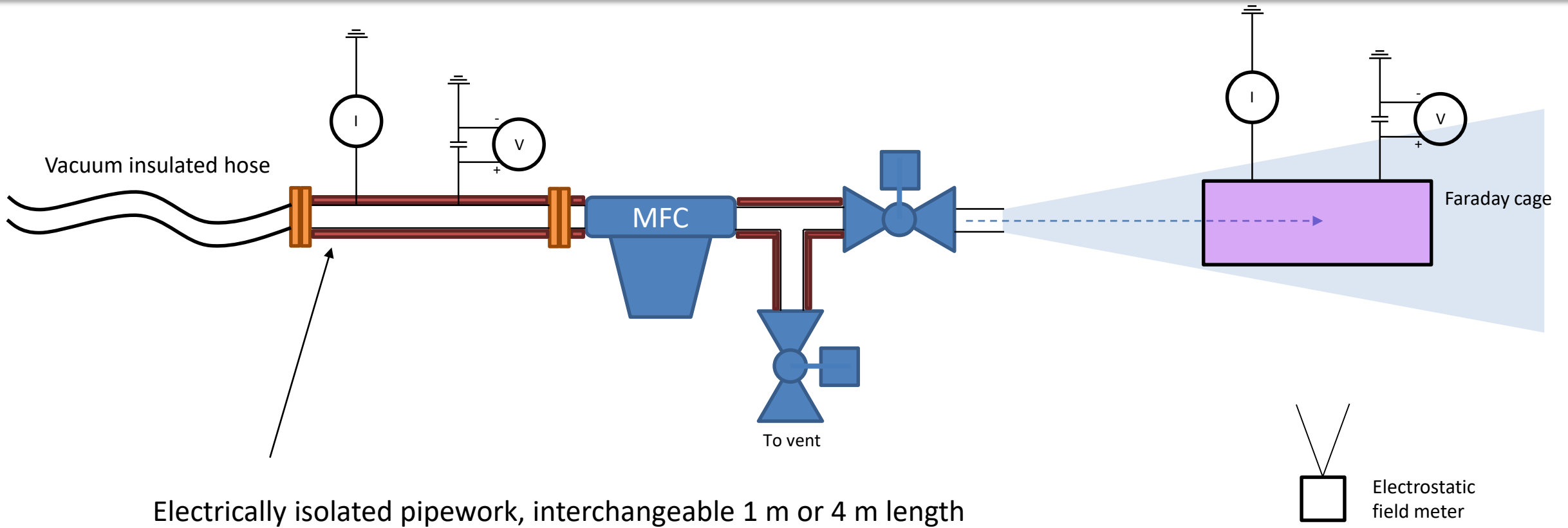
HEALTH & SAFETY  
LABORATORY

- Electrostatic measurements on pipeline, to estimate the charging current / charge density in bulk liquid flow



- To provide base level electrostatic measurements to draw practical implications from – i.e. comparison of propensity to ignite vs organics

# WP4 – Test set up





# WP4 - Electrostatic plume measurement

## Instrumentation

- *Electrometer – measuring charge on pipework and second on faraday cage*
- *Electrostatic field meter – measuring background charge from plume/jet*
- *Local humidity from local weather station*

## Infrastructure

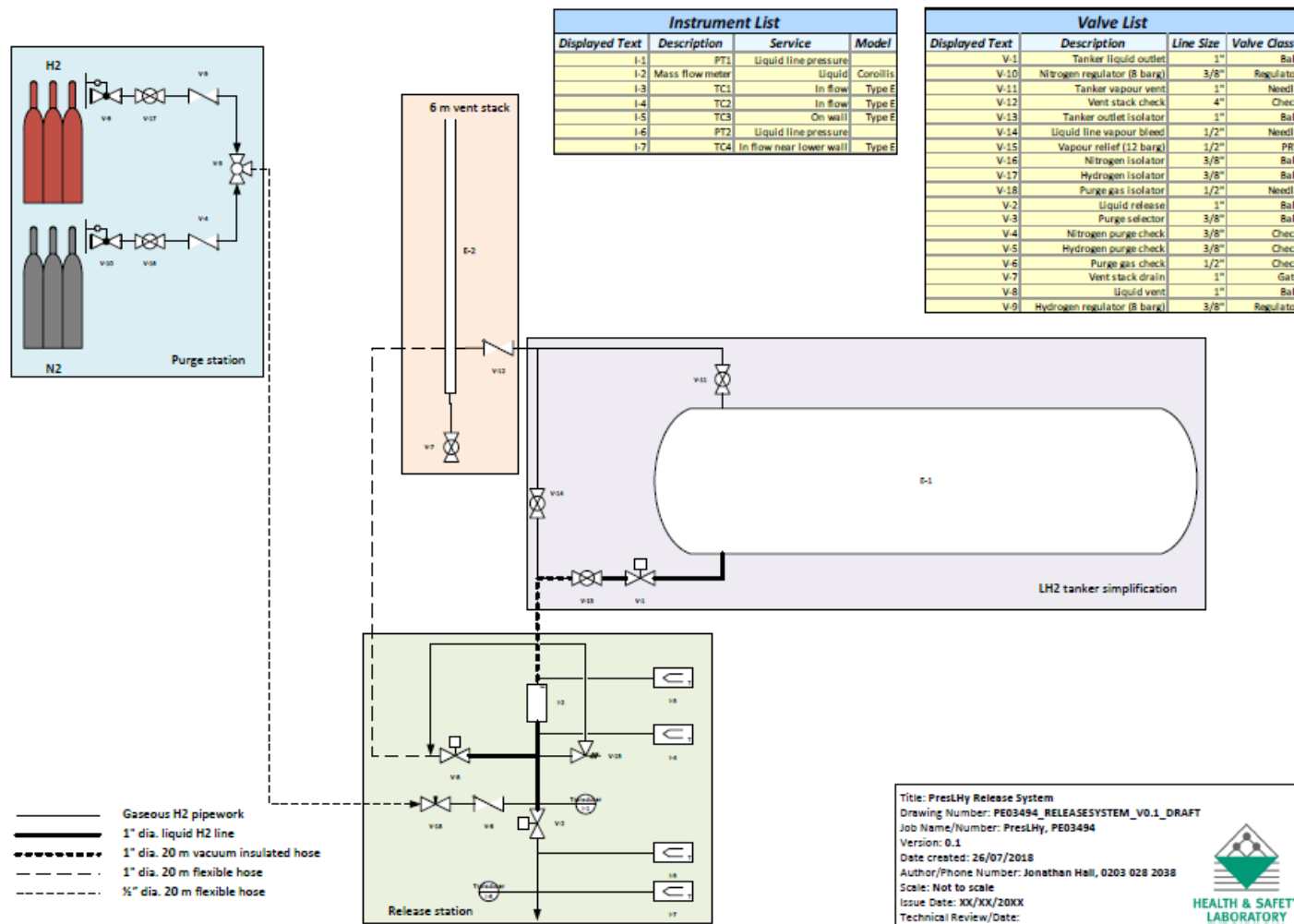
- *1 m / 4 m long isolated section of pipe*
- *Shield plate for field meter*
- *Shielded cable from pipework to control room for electrometer*
- *Faraday cage, dimensions 0.5 m \* 0.5 m \* 1.0 m*



# P&ID



HEALTH & SAFETY  
LABORATORY







# WP4 - Ignition of H<sub>2</sub>/condensed O<sub>2</sub> phase

- Bespoke release conditions/set up.
- Condensed phase will be made up of pure oxygen on first pass, any ignitions may be repeated with a condensed phase made up of air.

Work Package	Experimental Subtask	Test No.	Experiment Title	Ignition Type
4	4.5	4.5.1	Ignition of H <sub>2</sub> /condensed O <sub>2</sub> phase	Explosive detonator
4	4.5	4.5.2	Ignition of H <sub>2</sub> /condensed O <sub>2</sub> phase	Electric spark, multiple heights
4	4.5	4.5.3	Ignition of H <sub>2</sub> /condensed O <sub>2</sub> phase	Chemical ignitor, >10 kJ
4	4.5	4.5.4	Ignition of H <sub>2</sub> /condensed O <sub>2</sub> phase	Mechanical, drop weight
4	4.5	4.5.5	Ignition of H <sub>2</sub> /condensed air phase	Explosive detonator
4	4.5	4.5.6	Ignition of H <sub>2</sub> /condensed air phase	Electric spark, multiple heights
4	4.5	4.5.7	Ignition of H <sub>2</sub> /condensed air phase	Chemical ignitor, >10 kJ
4	4.5	4.5.8	Ignition of H <sub>2</sub> /condensed air phase	Mechanical, drop weight
4	4.5	4.5.9	Rapid phase transition	Water deluge (fire hose)
4	4.5	4.5.10	Rapid phase transition	Water deluge (sprinkler)

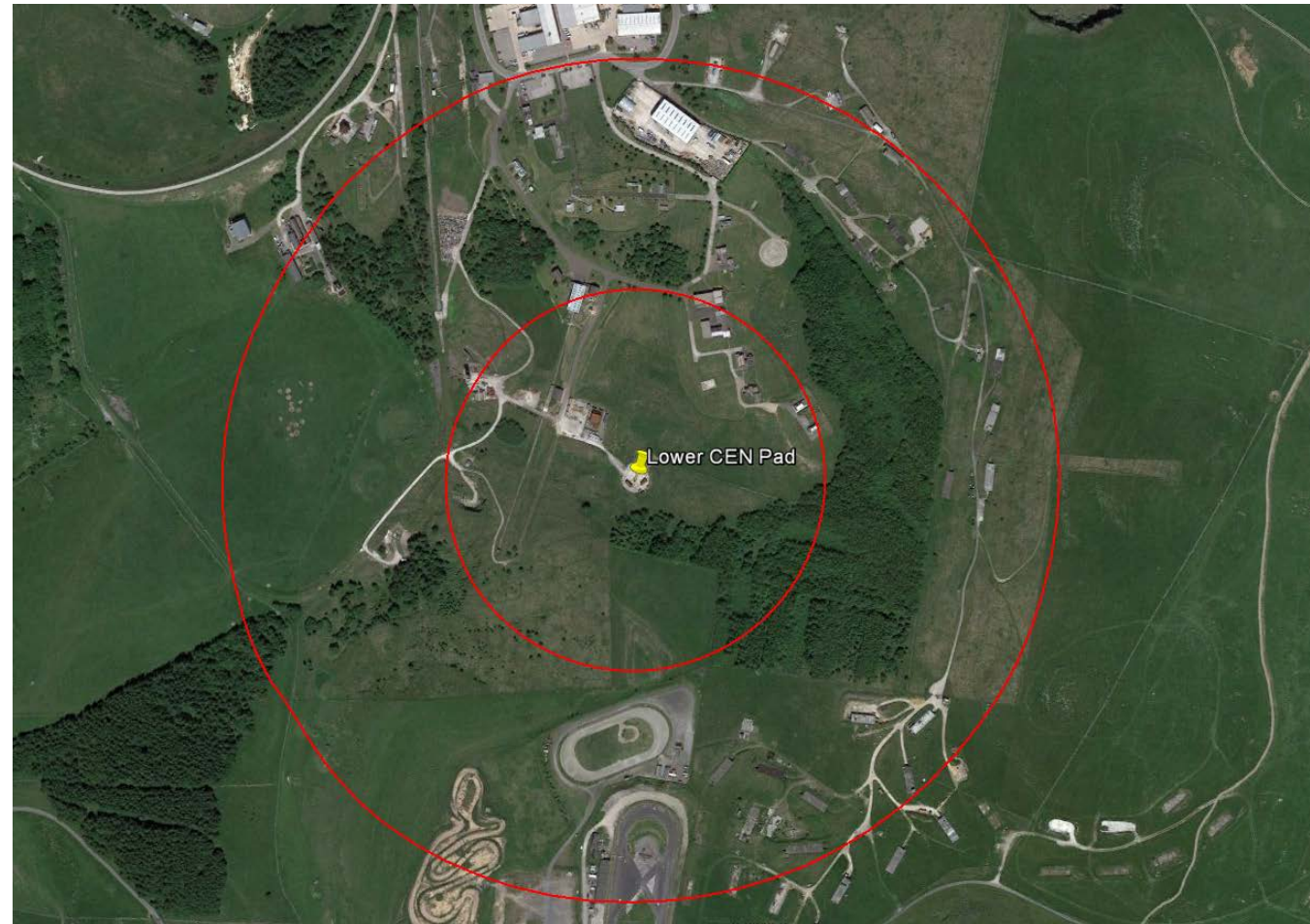


# WP5 - Combustion with congestion/confinement



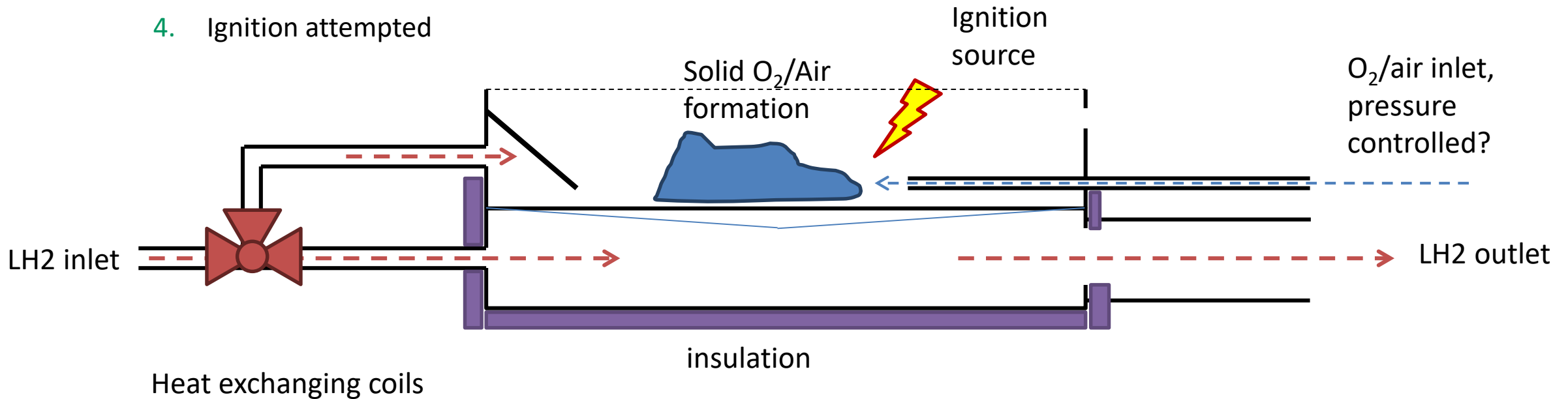
HEALTH & SAFETY  
LABORATORY

- Distance arcs of 215 m and 475 m
- Assuming 135 dB limit at extremes
- Equates to:
  - 0.137 kg TNT @ 215 m
  - 1.480 kg TNT @ 475 m



# WP4 - Ignition of H<sub>2</sub>/condensed O<sub>2</sub> phase

- Bespoke release conditions/set up
  1. LH2 fed into lower chamber until upper plate is cold
  2. O<sub>2</sub>/air fed onto top surface of plate to form solid deposition
  3. LH2 feed then turned onto top surface and deposition
  4. Ignition attempted



- Rapid phase transition tests could use same rig or simply spills onto the ground for longer



# WP4 – Previous experiments

- Used sample equivalent to 0.11 kg of TNT
- Previous NASA work used 0.024 kg of O<sub>2</sub> with LH<sub>2</sub> in excess, LH<sub>2</sub> quantity did not affect ignition sensitivity
- Used PU insulated PE containers
- Explosive yield = 2 kg TNT per 1 kg LH<sub>2</sub> + O<sub>2</sub>
- Therefore maximum of 0.15 kg of TNT = 0.075 kg LH<sub>2</sub> + O<sub>2</sub>



# WP4 - Ignition of H<sub>2</sub>/condensed O<sub>2</sub> phase

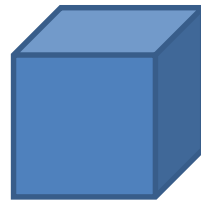
- The density of solid oxygen ranges from 21 cm<sup>3</sup>/mol in the α-phase, to 23.5 cm<sup>3</sup>/mol in the γ-phase. (Roder, H. M. (1978). "The molar volume (density) of solid oxygen in equilibrium with vapor" (reprint). *Journal of Physical and Chemical Reference Data*. 7 (3): 949.)
- Therefore: 21 cm<sup>3</sup>/mol = 0.0476 mol/cm<sup>3</sup>
- O<sub>2</sub> molar mass is 32 g/mol
- Density of solid O<sub>2</sub> = 32\*0.0476 = 1.524 g/cm<sup>3</sup> = 1524 kg/m<sup>3</sup>
- If 0.024 kg of solid O<sub>2</sub> is generated that takes up 0.016 l of space
- If the remainder of 0.075 kg of mixture is LH<sub>2</sub>, that leaves 0.045 kg of LH<sub>2</sub> (density 70 kg/m<sup>3</sup>) which takes up 6.43e<sup>-4</sup> m<sup>3</sup> or 0.64 l



# WP4 - Ignition of H<sub>2</sub>/condensed O<sub>2</sub> phase

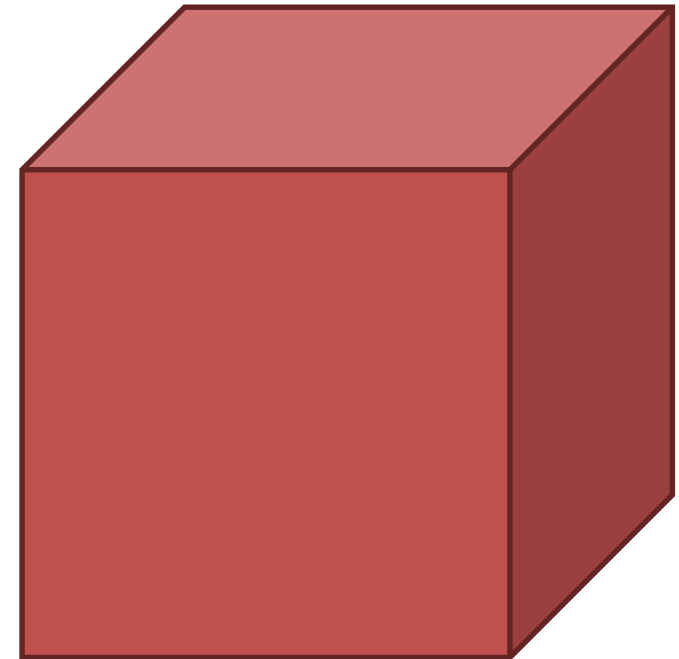
- If 0.5 x 0.5 m tray is used, O<sub>2</sub> level = 0.064 mm, LH<sub>2</sub> level = 2.6 mm
- If 0.25 x 0.25 m tray is used, O<sub>2</sub> level = 0.26 mm, LH<sub>2</sub> level = 10.3 mm

25 mm cube O<sub>2</sub>



0.016 l, 0.000016 m<sup>3</sup>,  
0.024 kg

86 mm cube LH<sub>2</sub>

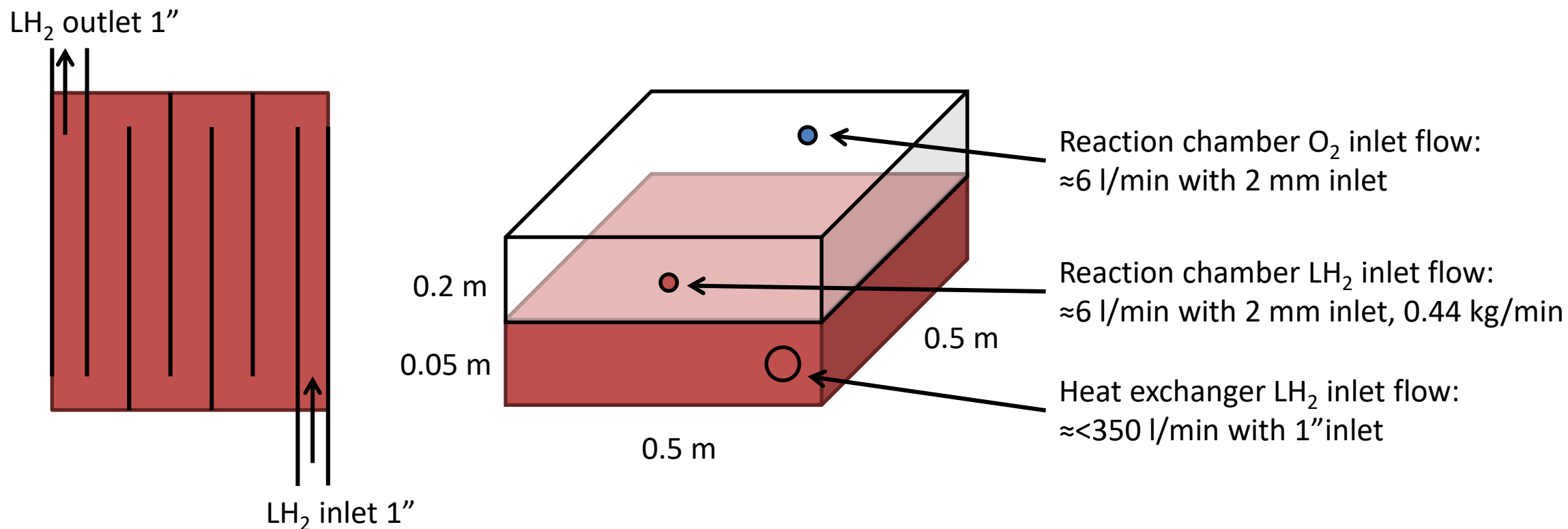


0.64 l, 0.000643 m<sup>3</sup>, 0.045 kg



# WP4 - Ignition of H<sub>2</sub>/condensed O<sub>2</sub> phase

HEALTH & SAFETY  
LABORATORY

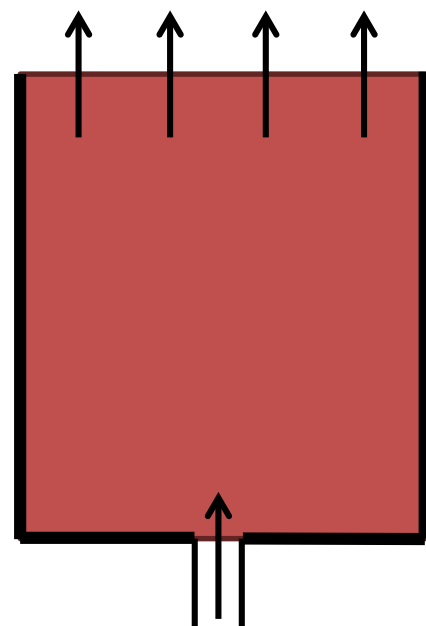


Reaction chamber LH<sub>2</sub> inlet sized to give maximum allowable quantity in ≈30 secs. Total coverage of solid O<sub>2</sub> is required for most ignition sensitive mixture therefore surface area of rig adjusted to suit.



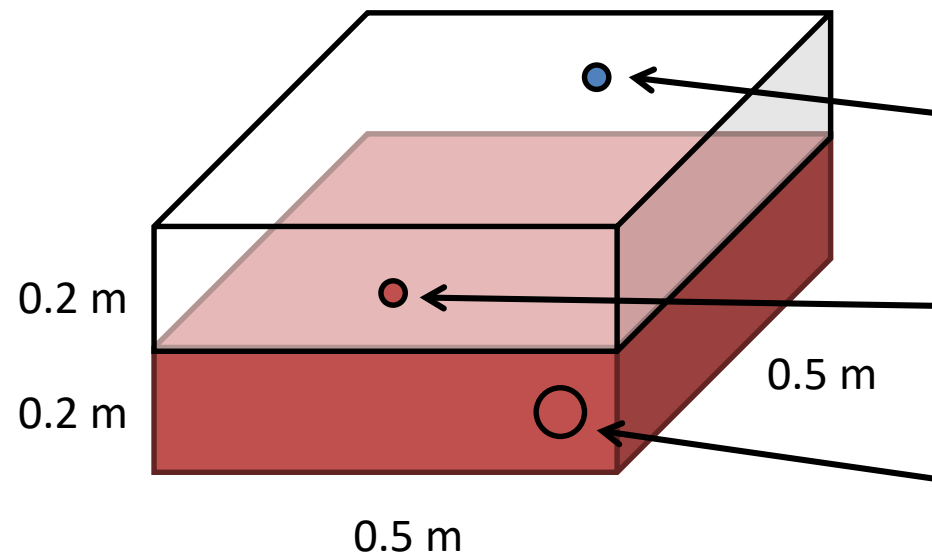
# WP4 - Ignition of H<sub>2</sub>/condensed O<sub>2</sub> phase

LH<sub>2</sub> outlet 0.2 x 0.5 m, 0.1 m<sup>2</sup>



LH<sub>2</sub> inlet 1/2", 1.27e-4 m<sup>2</sup>

Vent 800x larger than inlet, volume expansion of LH<sub>2</sub> 850-1



Reaction chamber O<sub>2</sub> inlet flow:  
≈6 l/min with 2 mm inlet

Reaction chamber LH<sub>2</sub> inlet flow:  
≈6 l/min with 2 mm inlet, 0.44 kg/min

Heat exchanger LH<sub>2</sub> inlet flow:  
≈<350 l/min with 1" inlet

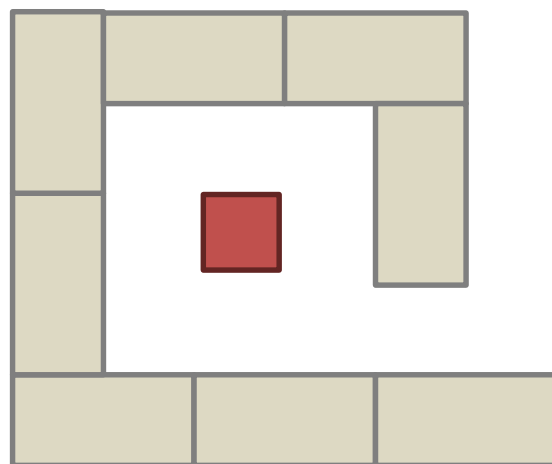
Reaction chamber LH<sub>2</sub> inlet sized to give maximum allowable quantity in ≈30 secs. Total coverage of solid O<sub>2</sub> is required for most ignition sensitive mixture therefore surface area of rig adjusted to suit.



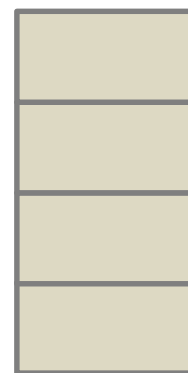


# WP4 - Ignition of H<sub>2</sub>/condensed O<sub>2</sub> phase

- Surround reaction chamber with concrete blocks
- Blast pressure measurement within the concrete walls



Plan view



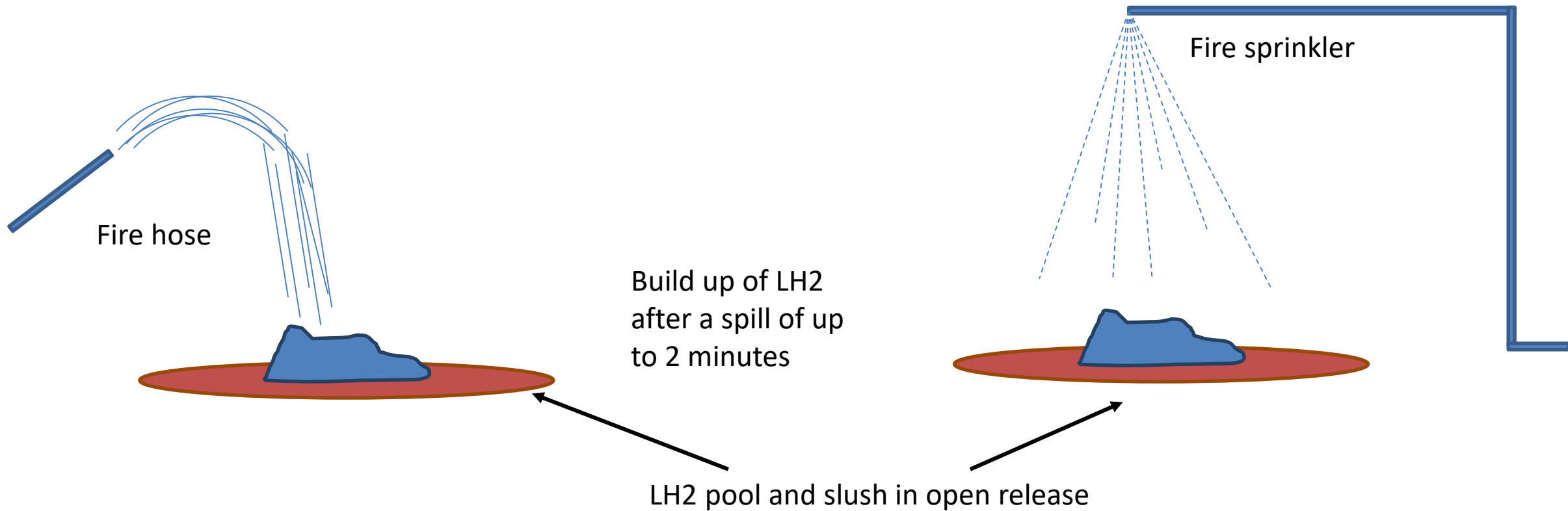
Walls 3 blocks high





# WP4 – Rapid phase transition

- Tests 4.5.9 and 4.5.10





# WP4 - Ignition of H<sub>2</sub>/condensed O<sub>2</sub> phase

## Instrumentation

- 2x blast pressure transducers within concrete enclosure walls (ranged 0-5 bara, 500 kHz logging rate)
- Audible sound meters at 50 m and 100 m approximately
- Remote ignition system with multiple outputs
- Thermocouples within reaction chamber/rig
- High speed video and IR

## Infrastructure

- Reaction chamber/rig
- Protective concrete block wall around chamber
- Protective steel shield in front of release station 1 m wide x 2 m high





**HEALTH & SAFETY  
LABORATORY**



HSL is the commercial arm of the Health and Safety Executive, HSE. Our commercial work delivers high quality science to meet the needs of industry and government in the UK and overseas. Our commercial customers can commission services and research using our state-of-the-art scientific laboratory in Buxton, as well as analytical expertise from other parts of HSE's science base.