**Global Gas Flaring Reduction Partnership**  
**Gas Flaring Definitions**

The objective of this document is to group the various types of gas flaring at oil production facilities in three defined categories: routine flaring, safety flaring, and non-routine flaring. Categorizing each type of gas flaring in this way allows identification of potential actions for its mitigation in new or existing facilities. This mitigation may be through:

- Commercial solutions, on-site utilization, or re-injection for routine flaring; or
- Improved facility design and/or operational procedures for routine, non-routine, and safety flaring.

The below examples of routine, safety, and non-routine flaring are illustrative and therefore not an exhaustive list.

**Routine flaring**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Examples of Routine Flaring</th>
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| Routine flaring of gas at oil production facilities is flaring during normal oil production operations in the absence of sufficient facilities or amenable geology to re-inject the produced gas, utilize it on-site, or dispatch it to a market. Routine flaring does not include safety flaring, even when continuous. | Includes:  
- Flaring from oil/gas separators;  
- Flaring of gas production that exceeds existing gas infrastructure capacity;  
- Flaring from process units such as oil storage tanks, tail gas treatment units, glycol dehydration facilities, produced water treatment facilities, except where required for safety reasons. |

**Safety flaring**

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| Safety flaring of gas is flaring to ensure safe operation of the facility. | Includes flaring of:  
- Gas stemming from an accident or incident that jeopardizes the safe operation of the facility;  
- Blow-down gas following emergency shutdown to prevent over-pressurization of all or part of the process system;  
- Gas required to maintain the flare system in a safe and ready condition (purge gas/make-up gas/fuel gas);  
- Gas required for a flare’s pilot flame; |
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
<td>• Gas produced as a result of specific safety-related operations, such as safety testing, leak testing, or emergency shutdown testing;</td>
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<td>• Gas containing H₂S, including the volume of gas added to ensure good dispersion and combustion;</td>
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<td>• Gas containing high levels of volatile organic compounds other than methane.</td>
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**Non-routine flaring**

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Non-routine flaring of gas is all flaring other than routine and safety flaring.</td>
<td>Non-routine flaring is typically intermittent and of short duration. It is either planned or unplanned. Includes flaring during:</td>
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<td>• Temporary (partial) failure of equipment that handles the gas during normal operations, until their repair or replacement, e.g. failure of compressors, pipeline, instrumentation, controls;</td>
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<td>• Temporary failure of a customer’s facilities that prevents receipt of the gas;</td>
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<td>• Initial plant/field startup before the process reaches steady operating conditions and/or before gas compressors are commissioned;</td>
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<td>• Startup following facility shutdowns;</td>
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<td>• Scheduled preventive maintenance and inspections;</td>
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<td>• Construction activities, such as tie-ins, change of operating conditions, plant design modifications;</td>
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<td>• Process upsets when process parameters fall outside the allowable operating or design limits and flaring is required to stabilize the process again;</td>
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<td>• Reservoir or well maintenance activities such as acidification, wire line interventions;</td>
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<td>• Exploration-, appraisal-, or production-well testing or clean-up following drilling or well work-over.</td>
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