

## **Abstract**

Home fires have been taking place frequently and the threat to human lives and properties is growing in recent years. Liquid petroleum gas (LPG) is highly inflammable and can burn even at some distance from the source of leakage. Most fire accidents are caused because of a poor-quality rubber tube or the regulator is not turned off when not in use. Therefore, developing the gas leakage alert system is very essential. Hence, this paper presents a gas leakage alert system to detect the gas leakage and to alarm the people onboard.

**Keywords:** Liquid petroleum gas, Gas sensor, Leakage

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Gas leakage leads to various accidents resulting in both material loss and human injuries. The risk of explosion, firing, suffocation are based on their physical properties such toxicity, flammability, etc. The number of deaths due to explosion of gas cylinders has been increasing in recent years. The reason for such explosion is due to substandard cylinders, old valves, worn out regulators and lack of awareness in handling gas cylinders. The LPG or propane is a flammable mixture of hydrocarbon gases used as fuel in many applications like homes, hostels, industries, automobiles, vehicles because of its desirable properties which include high calorific value, less smoke, less soot, and meager harm to the environment. Natural gas is another widely used fuel in homes. Both gases burns to produce clean energy, however there is a

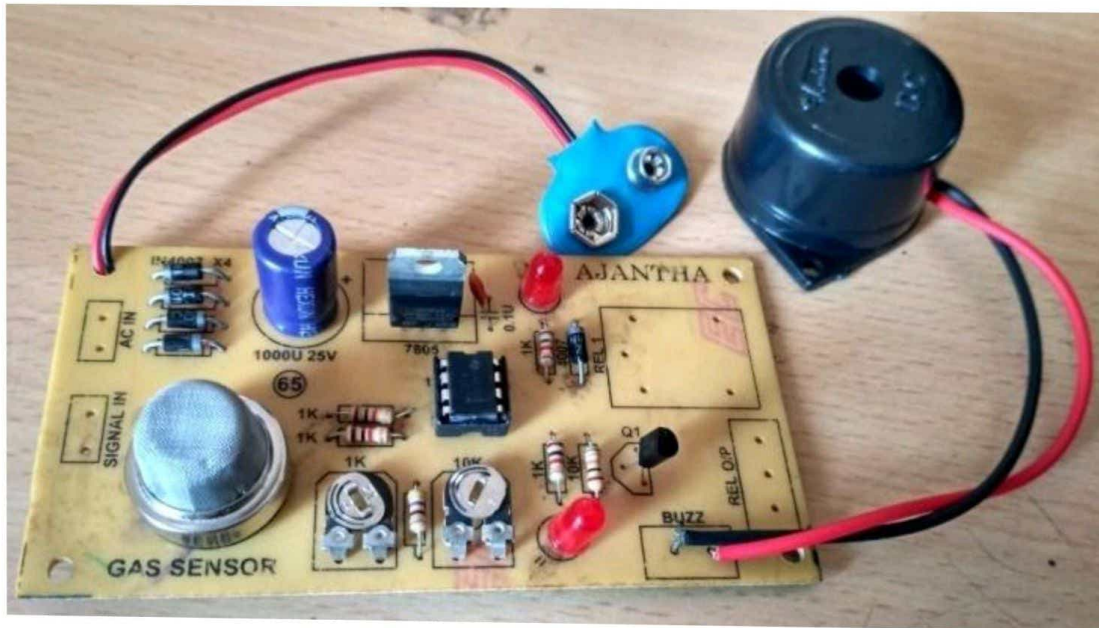
serious problem of their leakage. Being heavier than air, these gases do not disperse easily. It may lead to suffocation when inhaled and may lead to explosion [1].

Due to the explosion of LPG, the number of deaths has been increased in recent years. To avoid this problem there is a need for a system to detect the leakage of LPG. Gas leak detection is the process of identifying potentially hazardous gas leaks by means of various sensors [2]. Several designs of LPG detection and alert system have been proposed in the literature. Apeh et al. designed kitchen gas leakage detection and automatic gas shut off system [3]. T.Soundarya et al. presented the cylinder LPG gas leakage detection system [4]. Wireless and GSM technology [5] based gas detectors have also been proposed.

This paper presents a LPG leakage detection and alert system to avoid fire accidents and to provide house safety. The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 presents the LPG leakage detection and alert system and Section 3 concludes the paper.

## 2. LPG LEAKAGE DETECTION AND ALERT SYSTEM

The LPG leakage detection and alert system presented in this section is as simple as shown in Figure 1, yet reliable. It is battery operated and hence portable. It is designed in such a way that it can also be operated with ac power supply. To support the latter case, it has a bridge rectifier with a capacitor filter. This is followed by a regulator designed with IC7805 which provides +5V regulated power supply.



**Figure 1:** LPG leakage detection and alert system

To detect the LPG, MQ-6 gas sensor is employed. This sensor can be operated at +5V. The sensitivity of this sensor is very high and it has quick response time. It can

detect the LPG concentration in the range of 200-10000ppm. The gas sensing layer of this sensor is made of Tin Dioxide ( $\text{SnO}_2$ ) and gold (Au) electrodes. The output of the gas sensor is given to LM358 dual operational amplifier where it is compared with the threshold value for gas density which is set using preset potentiometers and amplified. If the sensed voltage is greater than the preset threshold voltage, the operational amplifier output fires the driver circuit for LED and Buzzer. As a result, the LED will glow and the buzzer starts to produce alarm sound.

### **3. CONCLUSION**

Gas leakage leads to severe accidents resulting in material losses and human injuries. Gas leakage occurs mainly due to poor maintenance of equipments and inadequate awareness of the people. Hence, LPG leakage detection is essential to prevent accidents and to save human lives. This paper presented LPG leakage detection and alert system. This system triggers LED and buzzer to alert people when LPG leakage is detected. This system is very simple yet reliable.