



From the desk of Mark Lindholm, WRPS President and Project Manager:

Two SCBA units chosen to undergo field tests

After evaluating 10 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) models, and testing four of them at HAMMER, an employee committee has selected two models for further testing inside the tank farms this summer. The units are the Air-Pak NxG7 and the ACSi SCBA, both manufactured by Scott Safety, a major provider of respiratory and personal protective equipment.

Twenty-four tank farm workers were trained at HAMMER in late May on use of the NxG7 unit. Plans call for the field trial of the NxG7 to begin in June/July and run for 30 to 45 days, with ACSi SCBA field testing beginning in August following training. The NxG7 will be tested by HAMTC members of the Liquid Observation Well van crew. Building Trades members working for American Electric will also test the model in AX Farm.

Employee evaluations of the NxG7 noted improved ergonomics, comfort, durability, lumbar support, ease in changing air bottles and optional accessories not available on other SCBA units. Evaluators found the ACSi SCBA's light weight and ergonomics provided a potentially good option for use in short-term activities and heavy work such as excavation. Following field trials and worker feedback, the evaluation team will recommend which SCBA unit(s) might be added as new options for tank farm use.

Air-line option to be explored

A portable air-line breathing system also will be evaluated this summer. An air-line respirator delivers breathing air to workers through a hose connected to a compressor or manifold located in, or drawing air from, a clean environment. Classroom and mock-up training is planned in June at HAMMER, followed by an in-farm trial.

Opportunities for Employee Engagement

- The next CVST Communication Sub-Team meeting is Monday, June 12, from 3 to 4 p.m. at 2704-HV, Room B-226.
- The next full CVST meeting is Wednesday, June 14, from 2 to 4 p.m. at 2704-HV, Room G-206.
- An all-employee survey will be conducted in July by the Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU). Employees will receive a link to the survey directly from ORAU and representatives will be on site to administer hard-copy surveys. Several focus groups will also be convened to provide input on WRPS' safety culture, with the results used in the wording of the survey and in interpreting the results.

Mark