



# Hanford Tank Vapors

Vapors Weekly Update  
Aug. 31, 2017

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

## **Employee engagement results in improved vapors communications**

The recommendations of a team of tank farm workers established in May to identify more effective means of exchanging information between chemical-vapor subject-matter experts and the WRPS workforce are yielding results.

WRPS employees have access to a large amount of industrial hygiene information through several sources. However, it can be difficult for employees to find needed information, interpret technical data and, most important, engage in two-way communications.

The employee team focused on finding ways to increase face-to-face communication with subject-matter experts, strengthen the use of the Chemical Vapors Solutions Team (CVST) as an effective communication tool, and improve the workforce's access to web-based vapors resources.

The team represented a cross-section of the workforce. It identified 19 potential improvements, including making the Hanfordvapors.com website easier to navigate, increasing CVST participation, modifying training curriculum, and changing pre-job checklists to include chemical-vapor hazard information. Other improvements include additional training for managers and supervisors, and adding industrial hygiene subject-matter experts to communicate vapors information to the workforce.

One notable improvement is creating a Team Vapor Representative (TVR) from each work team to attend the CVST meetings. TVRs are tasked with attending the twice-monthly meetings and reporting back to their work teams.

Chemical Hazard Awareness Training is being modified to include the available vapors web-based resources and where to find the information on the Hanford Vapors website. The team also suggested creating an e-form for workers to submit vapors-related questions to IH subject-matter experts. The e-form is available to employees on the WRPS intranet website under the "Vapors Protection" menu tab.

Thirteen of the 19 action items have been completed and the remainder are in progress. All items are expected to be completed by the end of calendar year 2017.

## **Opportunities for Employee Engagement**

- The next full CVST meeting is Wednesday, Sept. 13, from 2 to 4 p.m. at 2704-HV, Room G-206.

**Mark**

Have questions? Send us a message! [wrsadmin@rl.gov](mailto:wrsadmin@rl.gov)