



Hanford Tank Vapors

Vapors Weekly Update
Jan. 17, 2018

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

Using an air-line breathing system inside the tank farms can be a beneficial, but limited, alternative for workers wearing self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) in specific work activities, based on recent worker evaluations.

Air-line respirators deliver clean air to workers through a hose connected to a manifold, drawing air from a compressor or large air bottle. Workers appreciated the lighter load and increased ease of movement, but noted several conditions that would limit the widespread use of air lines in the tank farms.

Moving air lines around obstacles, long hose lengths and tripping hazards when jobs require a large number of workers were cited as problems. Air lines were also found to be unsuitable for short-duration jobs, such as routine surveillances.

But for 5 to 10 percent of tank farm work – activities with small crews working in a centralized area on a simple or moderately difficult job – air lines may be a good alternative. They would protect workers, reduce the health risk associated with SCBA use and would allow workers to stay inside tank farms longer, increasing efficiency.

We concluded that air-line breathing systems would be a good tool for WRPS to have available as an option to SCBA for workers performing certain tasks in the tank farms.

Opportunities for Employee Engagement

- The next full Chemical Vapors Solutions Team (CVST) meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 14, from 2 to 4 p.m. in Conference Room G-206 in 2704-HV.
- The next CVST Communications Sub-Team meeting is Monday, Jan. 22, from 3 to 4 p.m. in Conference Room 110 at 2425 Stevens Center.

Mark

