

Date Wed, 12 Jan 2000 130859 -0700

From Meredith Brown racer@lanl.gov

Subject: Yellow Alert- Supplied Air Fitting Failure

Title: Yellow Alert- Mechanical Failure of Supplied Air Fitting

Identifier 2000-OH-WVDP-001 Date 1/12/00

Summary- The user is the last barrier to confirm the safety and effectiveness of personal protective equipment. In addition to performing a pre-use inspection, workers are instructed to exit the work area if they notice anything unusual or wrong with their PPE.

Discussion- On Tuesday, January 4, 2000 at the West Valley Demonstration Project, a worker using supplied air was in a containment tent, preparing to enter a work area, when he noticed a noise coming from his MSA Duo-Flo™ valve. He also noted increased breathing resistance, as if air was coming from both the airline and the filter. According to his training, he exited the area and examined the Duo-Flo™ valve. There was a gap in the Duo-Flo Valve body, between the portion where the adapter to the air supply attaches and the large connector to the cartridge. As the breathing hose and valve were sleeved and taped with duct tape, he did not immediately notice the gap; the noise and resistance became apparent when he moved around in preparation of entering the work area.

Resolution- All Duo-Flo™ valves in stock were examined, and any that were not in perfect condition were taken out of service. The Duo-Flo™ valve will be sent back to the manufacturer for evaluation. Respirator users will be notified via briefing and Operations Safety Newsletter article.

Originator Carol Schmeidler (716) 942-2086

Validator None

Contact Carol Schmeidler (716) 942-2086

ADC None

Reviewing Official None

Descriptor Yellow / Caution

Keywords respirator, PPE

DOE Functional Category OSPE

Hazard PIAM