



DAYTON, OHIO REGIONAL HAZ-MAT RESPONSE TEAM NEWSLETTER

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The Suits Are In

It seems like years ago when in reality it was only months, but we have finally received the **Kapplar Frontline 500 Level A Suits** that we have been waiting for from the grant we were awarded. All thirty-six of the suits have been Acceptance Tested and are in good working condition. The Acceptance Testing was completed after all five county hazmat team representatives, and the Kappler reps, came together and, in one day, got them all finished. I would like to thank the Clark County, Darke County, Miami County, and Shelby County Hazmat Team representatives for their assistance with completing this task. Our suits are now in our inventory and can be used for any number of diverse types of incidents where a Level A suit is the suit of choice.

Suit Compatibility

In regard to the suit of choice, selection of the appropriate suit has always been an important part of hazmat response considerations and having an app to assist in those determinations is an asset. Kappler has their own suit compatibility app to do just that. The app is called **HazMatch** and is available to anyone who wants it. The app allows the user to select the encountered chemical and it will provide a recommendation on a compatible suit for use.



Acceptance Testing

In order to put new, recently purchased, suits into inventory for use they must be tested to ensure they are operational. This is called an Acceptance Test. This testing of suits does not stop there, however. Each year from that point on the suit must be tested and this is called Annual Testing. Why do we do annual testing you might ask? There are multiple reasons to do annual testing.

When it comes to hazardous environments Level A chemical suits represent the highest level of protection. These fully encapsulated suits are designed to shield wearers from toxic vapors, gases and liquids. But even the best designed suits aren't indestructible. Over time, exposure, use, and storage conditions can compromise their integrity.

Suit Testing Benefits

The primary benefits of conducting routine Level A suit testing include:

- **Guaranteed Vapor Protection** - Testing confirms that the positive pressure fully encapsulated suit creates an impenetrable barrier against highly toxic gases, vapors, and particulates.
- **Life Safety** - Validates the integrity of seams, zippers, and exhaust valves, ensuring the wearer is not exposed to IDLH environments.
- **Compliance & Liability Reduction** - Fulfills regulatory standards like OSHA 1910.120 and the EPA Operating Guidelines.

- **Operational Readiness** - Ensures that the Team has fully functional, mission ready gear when needed.
- **Cost Savings** - Identifies pinholes and degraded material allowing for timely repairs rather than unexpected emergency suit replacement.

Pressure Testing

A component of the Annual Test is a visual inspection of the suit to look for obvious deformities or damage, but the real test of the suit is the pressure test. Pressure testing verifies that the gas tight totally encapsulating chemical protective suit and its seams do not have pinholes or leaks. It confirms the suit can maintain positive pressure to keep hazardous vapors out.

Testing is a major part of ensuring that the equipment we use in the field is excellent working order thereby allowing the wearer to focus on the scenario at hand and not focus on the integrity of the suit being worn. If you have any questions on suit testing, suit compatibility or would like to participate in the annual testing of the suits please reach out to the Hazmat Coordinator.

Training – Training for this month is **Air Monitoring with Bad Day Training. July 13, 14, & 15** – 0900 - 1200 hours. **Dayton Training Center Task Force Building**

August 17, 18, & 19 – 0900 - 1200 hours
Location - TBD
GCLEPC Exercise Month

September 14, 15, & 16 - 0900-1600 hours
DFD TC @ Task Force Bldg
Railroad with Jon Simpson

October 5, 6, & 7 – 0900 - 1200 hours
DFD TC @ Task Force Bldg
Top Ten Scenarios

November 16, 17, & 18—0900-1200 hours
Location – Dayton Police Academy
Bomb Squad Awareness

December - No Training