

Date: Mon, 18 Oct 1999 11:07:09 -0600  
From: Meredith Brown <racer@lanl.gov>  
Subject: Yellow Alert: Defect Discovered on MSA PAPR Hoods

**Title: Defect Discovered on MSA PAPR Hoods**

Identifier: ERC-99-007 Date: October 12, 1999

**Lessons Learned Statement:** To Be Developed

**Description of Activities:** On October 6, 1999, an Environmental Restoration Contractor (ERC) Decontamination and Decommissioning (D&D) worker notified the Bechtel Hanford, Inc. (BHI) safety representative of a potential defect in the MSA powered air purifying respirator (PAPR) hood. This PAPR hood, along with specially designed coveralls, is designed for use in radiologically or chemically hazardous environments and operates under positive airflow from supplied air a battery powered blower. The potential defect appears along the edge of the plastic facepiece in the form of cuts in the plastic. When the malleable face piece is bent, the cuts can become open cracks which may result in loss of integrity of the hood. The cuts appear on the plastic along the edges of the paper used to protect the face shield, and is apparently due to the manufacturing process used to apply this paper cover.

The MSA model number is #7-686-1 - when used on a NIOSH certified Versa Hood respirator tube, and #D-960-1 (also P/N 486485 for shoulder length) - when used on an appropriate NIOSH certified PAPR with threaded breathing tube connection and exhalation valve.

**Analysis:** To Be Developed

**Recommended Actions:** All users should carefully inspect the MSA hood faceshields to determine if the problem described above exists at their location. If found, users should remove the hoods from service and contact their MSA representative.

Priority Descriptor: Yellow/Caution

Functional Category: Occupational Safety & Health

Originator: Bechtel Hanford, Inc., LLC.

Validator: J. E. Tarpinian, Manager QSH

Contact: Sheldon Coleman, Industrial Hygiene Manager (509)-376-8481

Authorized Derivative Classifier: N/A

Keywords: respirator, hoods

References: RL-BHI-GENAREAS-1999-0005

Hazards: Personnel Protection