

# IH TIPS and QUICK FIXES



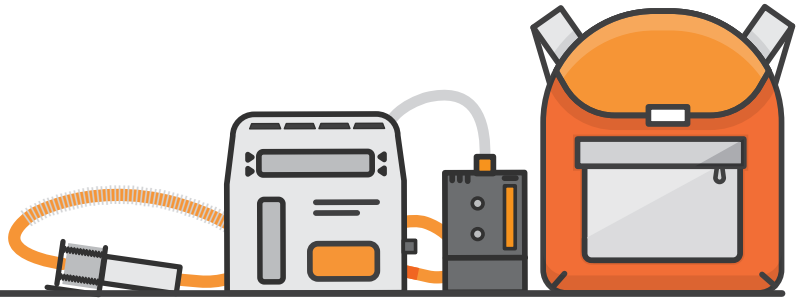
Knowing the tricks of the trade can help you do your job *safely and efficiently!* Safex has been around for 25 years and we have accumulated lots of IH know-how. Here are some of our IH tips so that you can approach any job—and any *snafu*—with a can-do attitude.

- Put together an IH Sampling Bag with supplies—*more supplies than you think you'll need.*
- DON'T SAMPLE FOR MOLD WHEN THE AIR SCRUBBER IS RUNNING.**
- If your pump faults, start by checking for changes in the equipment being worn by the worker. Then, check the tygon tubing where it enters the pump. If the tygon tubing is soft and easily bent, remove the tubing from the pump and cut about 3/4" of tubing off and place the tube back on the pump. *(This trick requires that you follow Tip #1 and include scissors among the supplies packed in your IH Sampling Bag.)*
- IT IS POSSIBLE TO SAMPLE WITH TWO SORBENT TUBES AND ONE PUMP ON A WORKER. KNOW HOW TO USE A DUAL MANIFOLD SAMPLER.
- Bring a snack during sampling; you may not get a chance to run out and grab food. No one needs their industrial hygienist passing out from hunger on the job!
- If you're sampling out in the rain, be sure to dry your equipment immediately—unless, of course, you'd like to end up with a nice, rusty screwdriver. *(In case Tip #6 ever slips your mind: 1 tablespoon of baking soda mixed into 2 cups of water makes a great de-rusting scrub for your stainless steel tools.)*
- Remember to take your earplugs out of your pockets before laundry day. Otherwise, the fluorescent yellow or orange stains left on your work pants will have people wondering if you got into a fight with a highlighter.
- MAKE DUPLICATES OF YOUR LABELS IN CASE THEY RUB OFF.**
- Place pumps on the sides or front of workers who often sit or drive a forklift. *(Sitting against the pump or tubing can restrict flow and cause the pump to fault.)*
- Never compare total particulate sampling results to inhalable, respirable, IFV, etc. OELS.**
- NRR is based on dBC where dosimetry and SLM readings are in dBA. *(Use the -7 dB from the NRR to approximate dBA.)*
- Always read the number of strokes (N=) needed for detector tube measurements.**
- Calibrate pumps in the conditions where sampling is being conducted to avoid over/underestimating total captured air.
- Fashion a belt out of duct tape when there's no other way to affix the pump. *(I hope you packed duct tape in your IH Sampling Bag!)*
- REVIEW THE SAMPLING SECTION OF THE ANALYTICAL METHOD BEFORE A SURVEY TO CHECK FLOW RATES, MAX VOLUME, SENSITIVITY, AND INTERFERENCES.**
- When calibrating noise dosimeters, place the calibrator adapter on first and make sure there is a snug fit with the microphone. Then, place the calibrator on top.
- If your earplugs are connected to your hard hat for convenience, make sure to take the plugs out of your ears before removing your hard hat.**
- Take detailed notes on employee job tasks so that you know what might have contributed to unusual sampling results.
- When sampling with a cyclone, be sure to keep the cyclone in an upright position. Turning it upside down can deposit dust from the grit pot onto the sample.
- Remember to always set the date and time to your dosimeters—especially if you're working in a different time zone.
- WHEN USING A CYCLONE, BE SURE TO CLEAN THE CYCLONE AND EMPTY THE GRIT POT OFTEN.**
- When sampling with 25mm and 37mm cassettes, always remember "spokes to the pump." Be sure the cassette side with the raised spokes around the attachment hole is connected to the pump/tubing. The smooth side should be unobstructed.
- Always have extra media. You never know when a shift you are sampling for will go off track.**
- ALWAYS BRING A POWER STRIP. YOU MAY NOT HAVE ENOUGH OUTLETS TO CHARGE ALL OF YOUR EQUIPMENT.**
- Conditions may change throughout the day, and you may have to adapt. Enroll in a yoga class so that you can be flexible!



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**Safe**  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
1992-2017

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