

Changes to indoor air sampling method

Hill AFB will be changing the sampling method for its indoor air sampling program for the 2016 sampling season, which begins in November 2015.

The most obvious change is to how the samples are collected. Summa canisters, which were used to collect a 24-hour sample, are being replaced with a small passive sampling device, about the size of a ballpoint pen, designed to collect a sample over a 14- to 26-day period.



Passive diffusion sampling tubes.

The devices are able to accurately measure an average concentration of chemicals in the air over the entire sampling period. Recent advances in the science have shown that contaminant concentrations in a home

can vary from day-to-day. This variability is due to changes in weather, outside temperature, furnace use, opening of windows and doors and several other factors and can affect if contaminant vapors are entering the home.

Because of this variability, a longer-duration sample may reduce uncertainty as to whether vapor intrusion is occurring.

What these changes mean to residents

Sampling procedures will not change much from previous years. However, because the sampling tube will be picked up in two to four weeks instead of the next day, more coordination between the resident and the sampling team will be required. The sampling team will contact the resident to schedule the placement of the sampling

To ensure an accurate sample is collected, residents are asked to do the following:

- If you have a basement, make sure the sampling team can safely access it so they can find a suitable place for the sampling tube.
- Do not participate in hobbies that use paint, solvents or clear glues.
- Do not clean guns inside the home or attached garage during the sampling period.
- Avoid bringing things into the home that may be soiled with degreasing solvents, such as tools, shop towels or coveralls.
- Dry cleaning could taint the sample. If possible, arrange to pick up dry cleaning after the sampling tube has been collected.
- Avoid contact with the sampling tube.

tube and will tentatively schedule the pickup.

The tube will be placed in the lowest livable space in the home, at about three to five feet off the ground.

Identifying inside sources is important to determine if detected chemicals are due to vapor intrusion. The sampling team will conduct a home chemical inventory with the resident prior to placing the sampling tube. This will ensure all chemicals inside the home that could interfere with the sample are removed. The entire process takes about 45 minutes.

For questions about the sampling, please contact

- Mark Roginske, Hill AFB Indoor Air Sampling Program Manager, 801-775-3651
- Barbara Fisher, Hill AFB Public Affairs, 801-775-3652
- Mo Slam, Utah Department of Environmental Quality, 801-536-4178
- Sandra Bourgeois, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 8, 303-312-6666