

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

February 13, 2026

**TO:** Technical Director  
**FROM:** Hanford Site Resident Inspectors  
**SUBJECT:** Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending February 13, 2026

**Emergency Preparedness (EP):** A resident inspector observed an EP drill simulating a spray leak in a transfer line at A Tank Farm, injuring one worker. The drill also included incomplete personnel accountability that the emergency response organization (ERO) had to resolve as part of the scenario. The resident inspector noted that the initial response to the event scene by radiological control technicians was excellent, including attending to the injured worker and surveying all personnel present prior to establishing the cold-line boundary. The ERO support team struggled with doffing of firefighter bunker gear, but the resident inspector notes that the H2C EP organization is planning to arrange additional opportunities to practice doffing on firefighters (see 1/30/2026 report). The resident inspector also discovered yellow and magenta debris, which should be controlled as part of good housekeeping practices, outside of a posted area. Radiological control technicians indicated that the debris appeared to be part of a stanchion and verified the debris was not contaminated.

A resident inspector observed an EP drill at the 222-S laboratory simulating a drum deflagration and fire in the Dangerous and Mixed Waste Storage Area (DMWSA). This is a new alert-level event for the facility as part of a larger overhaul of the facility's EP program. During the drill and subsequent post-drill meeting, the ERO members noted potential consequences of a DMWSA fire that should be considered ahead of time to improve future response, such as the potential release of cyanide gas from incompatible materials and the expected performance of the DMWSA fire suppression system during a waste fire. In addition, drill observers and participants noted how this scenario, which included rain and no wind, might impact ERO response and change the expected contamination and airborne radioactivity personnel could encounter.

**242-A Evaporator:** The resident inspector observed a plant health committee meeting for the evaporator. After several years of upgrades and subsequent operation over the last year, participants noted that the overall health of the facility has improved, though recent inspections by maintenance personnel revealed that one of the safety-significant dump valves has a leak, likely due to the effects of tank waste on Teflon™-coated valves. While the leak is not impairing its safety function, facility personnel are scheduled to replace the valve next week. In addition, the committee has added the fire suppression system to the facility's system health reporting program, which had been identified as a potential improvement during a staff review of the Hanford Site's fire protection programs (see 7/24/2024 report). The evaporator is scheduled to begin its next campaign in July.