

HOW ONE INDUSTRIAL HYGIENIST OVERCAME PERSONAL EXPOSURE MONITORING LIMITATIONS

Exposure Monitoring Case Study



We just added the new TSI SidePak™ AM520 Personal Aerosol Monitor to our industrial hygiene monitoring “tool box.” I liked the intrinsic safety rating that opened up the ability to sample in a few locations I have concerns about. The newly designed impactors that enable reliable cut point sampling at higher aerosol concentrations is what made this new instrument a must have for me. Our old photometers tended to plug up and fail when aerosol concentrations increased.

“In my eyes, these new AM520’s have already paid for themselves after our first few deployments.”

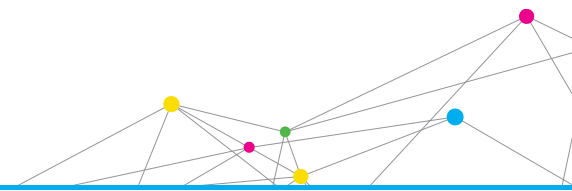
In my eyes, these new AM520's have already paid for themselves after our first few deployments. We decided to try out the new alarm feature on a process we have monitored a number of times. We set an alarm level to alert the operator when exposure reached a level 3x higher than our average baseline sampled with our old photometers.

Just before lunch, I heard it. Both operators wearing the new AM520's were on the way to my office with the alarms sounding on their monitors. Some folks were heading for the doors thinking it was a fire alarm. These guys were almost laughing in disbelief that the peak level was reached. They had altered their technique slightly which they felt would increase the exposure slightly. They were already wearing respirators, so they wanted to experiment with changes to position with the grinders to see if the exposure would increase.



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When the alarms sounded, they were surprised. They expected an increase in exposure, but not this high. They were a little sheepish to admit that some folks often deviate from the established procedure and do just what had caused the alarm today. In the past, we never picked up on this during sampling because our photometric instrument functioned poorly at high concentration levels and we didn't have an alarm to warn the workers when the readings were high.

“Finding success stories like this makes it easy to ask management for additional direct reading instruments like the SidePak AM520 Personal Aerosol Monitor.”



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