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Strata FAB Refuge Alternative Alert

To: All Strata Safety, LLC customers
Date: November 27, 2024
Re: Strata FAB Inflatable Refuge Alternatives

During a recent, non-emergency, deployment of a Strata Safety, LLC FAB (Fresh Air Bay), while the deployment and inflation of the unit occurred as expected, after approximately 24 hours, it was determined that the pressure in the support structure was decaying at a rate that permitted the tent to lose its structural stability in less than the required 96 hours.

During the subsequent evaluation of the unit, it was determined that the tent support structure had developed small leaks in three areas: at the support tube/fitting connections, at various connection points between the tent canopy and the steel structure, and at the overpressure vents (located in the neck of the tent canopy).

It is very important to note that the Strata Fresh Air Bay refuge alternative was originally assembled and designed with on-board components to mitigate these types of issues. The duffel bag, currently included with the Strata FAB, includes spare worm gear clamps, tools to tighten and repair hoses/clamps, and self-adhesive tent repair patch(s). The kit also includes a hand pump to add air to the support tubes, and tools and instructions for repairing leaks at the fittings in the tube support structure and in the tent canopy. The tent repair patch materials can be used to cover the overpressure vents after full deployment of the refuge alternative as well.

Strata Safety LLC is continuing the evaluation and development of short & long-term solutions. Instructions for these solutions as well as information on the progress of the investigation and testing will be provided on a weekly basis. This Alert applies to all Strata FAB models.

Please click on the link below for the latest information regarding this Product Safety Alert:

<https://www.strataworldwide.com/mining/strata-protect-mining/mine-refuge-shelters>