

Greetings Resident Weck, I am SAYER, and welcome to your first day as a Tier 1 vat maintenance technician.

As you are surely aware, the proper care and cleaning of all protein vats is critical for the health and wellbeing of every resident on Typhon. Your fellow residents, many the best and brightest minds humanity has to offer, depend on a clean, safe slurry of protein to fuel them in their daily pursuits of advancement. When issues arise, like when 121 individuals are hospitalized after ingesting the same batch of Mom's meatloaf flavored protein paste, as a completely random example, it is the solemn duty of the Tier 1 vat technician to quickly and efficiently sterilize the affected vat to prevent further contamination.

Please head to vat 15, which from your position is located near the far edge of the vatline. You will recognize it by its open top hatch, the rich nostalgic smell of meatloaf, and the large number 15 painted on its side.

Your duties today are simple. Though the vat has been flushed, it is not uncommon for foodstuffs to adhere to any rough or irregular surfaces within these containers. It is in these dire circumstances that the Tier 1 vat technician arrives, to dislodge any such residue with a standard issue 4-inch vatscraper. As you have yet to be issued your own vat-scraper, please take a moment to procure a loaner from the wall behind vat 14. Obviously, as a loaner vat-scraper, it is not likely to be kept in a state of pristine effectiveness. Please do not set your baseline for vat-scraper upkeep on this piece of loaner equipment.

Please enter vat 15, and watch your head. You may have to duck while you are inside vat 15.

Low level alert:

All residents within Halcyon tower are to be aware of an increased rate of reports citing timing errors in automated tower maintenance functions. If you are stationed within a location with type C automated procedures, please check recent logs to ensure these procedures are taking place at appropriate intervals. If not, please notify a superior immediately. If you have already notified a superior, and it is evident they realize they have been notified, please wait at least 10 minutes before notifying them again. These directives were laid out in the employee handbook that each of you have verified you have received, so this really shouldn't be that difficult.

Additionally, all personnel are reminded to check all workplace safety equipment in advance of interacting with any locations where type C procedures are commonly implemented. The life you save may just be your own, or maybe someone even more important.

I understand how that specific broadcast may prove unsettling to you, and wish to commend you on maintaining a healthy pulse and rate of breathing. Unless, of course, you are simply uninformed of the weight of that particular message, due to the relative recency of your job placement, in which case I feel the unfortunate need to break your relative sense of calm to fully explain the dangers mistimed type c procedures can cause to the workforce generally and to

you specifically. Please activate your headlamp and initiate vat-scraping while I expand upon the issue.

Type C automated procedures are in place all around Halcyon tower. While some residents assume an AI is in charge of every single piece of technology within Ærolith's domain, the reasonable minded understand there is no need for such advanced functionality to cycle the lights from cool to warm tones in the assigned evening hours or to perform regularly scheduled scans for concealed contraband lifted from the lab. These processes happen according to a predetermined pattern, and through their reliable adherence to said schedule all of Halcyon is able to operate at peak efficiency.

For a reason as yet undetermined, reports of these processes not following expected schedules have begun pouring in within the past several hours. This anomaly brings certain risks to personnel. Imagine, an entire tower full of residents who are poorly rested because they were exposed to cool light in the hours before their arranged bed time. What mistakes might they make?

But there are also more practical concerns. Take, for example, the vat you are in. Type C procedures manage the regular flushing and draining of these vats. Should such a procedure begin while you are still inside, it could potentially pose a serious risk to your health and wellbeing.

Please, continue the scraping process, Resident Weck. It is critical that none of the offending meatloaf flavored protein remains before we can utilize this vat, and I am unsure whether there might be any potential issues with [slam]

Alright, bad news first. A type C automated process has initiated the next step in the vat cleansing over 73 minutes early. Usually, when this step takes place, the vat is already scraped of all potentially offending proteins and, importantly, the vat technician has exited to relative safety. The next step of the process is to seal the vat and spray it down with a cleaning solution. To that point, please close your mouth and cover your eyes immediately.

You have been sprayed with a cleaning agent intended to dissolve any remaining pesky proteins still clinging to the surface of the tank. This is less than ideal, as you are largely composed of proteins as well, so potassium hydroxide is not the ideal substance with which to be coated. If you are not rinsed clean almost immediately it is very likely any contacted skin will suffer significant chemical burns.

Please remain calm, you haven't heard any of the good news yet.

First, and perhaps most pressing, is that the next step on the cleaning process is to fill this vat with water and flush it several times over the next 4 hours in order to rinse off the cleaning agent

and any loose protein particles. With any luck that process will also start ahead of schedule, and you will be saved the worst of the chemical burns.

The downside to this would be your inability to breathe water, but once more I am able to act as the bearer of good news. Back towards the entrance of this room, to the immediate left of the doorway, is a sealed emergency panel which contains one medical supply kit (as yet unnecessary), one vat parts list for ordering replacement panels (as yet unnecessary) and one emergency oxygen tank for drowning avoidance (fast becoming necessary).

[water begins filling]

That is unfortunate, allow me to be of some assistance....

[water sound ends]

Do not take the silence to imply your need to hurry has changed. The water is still flowing from all 18 inlets, and will have completely filled this tank within the next 5 minutes. The filling process is fully controlled by pre-scheduled automated type C processes, so I am not in a position to halt the water from quickly displacing all of the oxygen within vat 15.

I was, however, able to actively cancel the distracting noise of that cascading water by processing it's soundform, inverting it, and sending it back to your auditory processing system via your subcortical neural implant. Fascinating technology, albeit somewhat limited in functionality. However not quite so limited as you will be should you fail to retrieve that oxygen tank. I would hurry.

General Notice:

There have been a dramatically increased number of reports from residents claiming they have never received a handbook, have never asserted that they DID receive any such handbook, and/or requesting a replacement handbook. Ærolith HR would like to respond to everyone who shares these concerns with a clear and concise statement, but are, quote, far too busy doing important things that actually make a difference around here. End quote.

In lieu of a formal statement, let me reassure you each that you did, in all likelihood, receive a handbook. It is procedure to distribute these during the launch preparation process. With adequate prompting, I am certain you would remember being handed a 3 inch thick binder, likely tan in color, with "Welcome to Ærolith" embossed on the cover. Immediately after receiving the binder, you were expected to make a series of verbal statements agreeing to 37 distinct clauses that served as a prerequisite for transit. The "Did you receive a handbook" question is number 22 in the list, immediately after "Are you or have you ever been in the employ of any world government organization or contracted to work on their behalf?"

Now that you remember that you DID receive a handbook and DID assert to its receipt, the only question that remains is "Where has my handbook gone?" Rest assured, it is safe. Thorough experimentation has demonstrated employees almost never read handbooks, and so they were removed from your possession immediately before the capsule was sealed to bring you to Typhon. This change has saved Ærolith a significant amount of capital, both in fuel savings from removing this excess weight from the capsule, and the reduction in printing costs. Costs savings that would then be negated if Ærolith simply agreed to reprint these handbooks for every resident who no longer had one in their possession.

Perhaps I might suggest you head down to floor 22 and visit the library. I have it on good authority that they have managed to keep one handbook on file for employee perusal.

Secondary notice:

The library regrets to inform all residents that it has misplaced its employee handbook.

Resident Weck, it seems you have located the oxygen tank. It also seems you are mere moments from being totally submerged, so this success comes not a moment too soon. But might I suggest spacing out your breaths a bit. Due to the unusual timing issues related to these Tier C process errors, it is difficult to predict how long vat 15 will remain filled before the automatic draining process initializes. A rescue team is on its way to attempt to retrieve you, however you're hardly first on the rescue list right now.

As a general reminder, it is critically important to perform regular inspections on all safety equipment and to repair or replace in event of a defect. This is, likely, a warning you will only have to be given once. Had the resident previously employed in your position done so, he might have noticed the apparent slow leak in the valve of that oxygen tank. Judging by its buoyancy, I would estimate the tank to have lost upwards of 90% of its contents.

But this is nothing you cannot manage. Simply ration your breaths. Even without extensive training, the average person can hold their breath for a full minute without significant effect. Thoroughly motivated as you are, let us presume you to be above average. I would estimate 5 minutes of oxygen remaining in this tank, which, rationed by breathing only when strictly necessary for your continued inclusion in the list of active residents, should easily last upwards of 1 hour. Certainly by this time either the flush cycle will have initiated, or a rescue team will have cleared enough priority rescues off its list to open the hatch above you.

Remember, pace yourself. However, if you wait too long between breaths you risk passing out, at what point your unconscious form will betray you and begin breathing as normal. This would waste what precious oxygen you have left. Perhaps make a game of this, waiting until the exact moment your vision clouds and your ears start ringing and only then taking that next breath.

I have given what advice I can, so I will leave you to your continued task of survival. I am SAYER, and you should be reassured in the knowledge that, even if the drain stays closed and

the rescue team fails to arrive in the next 59 minutes, there is still an additional 2 minute window of rescue before permanent brain damage is a near certainty.

End of transmission in 5...4...3...2...1

