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## FOAM LINES EXTRA, MAY 2019

### Go Through The Brow Vents

This piece is further to a conversation I had with an associate on Sunday about fighting fire through a brow vent on an internal floating roof tank.

Spoke to a former Senior \_\_ FPE today. He's helped keep me honest for a few years when it comes to our Foam Technician Level III (Behind The Fence) programs at his facilities.

Yup, there are critter screens in the brow vents. There is no specific design specification that he's aware of. Most he knows of are 0.25" mesh screen, tack welded in place. That's what I've seen too. We agree, knocking them out under fire conditions could be very challenging, if not impossible.

Still, a well placed 500 gpm foam stream may knock one loose. If nothing else, the screen would help disperse a narrow foam pattern such that it might be effective on a rim seal fire if caught early enough. Obviously if the source of ignition were a ground fire, getting safe access among other tanks, manifolds, pumps and pipes makes for a tough go, no-go decision.

AFFF's filming is not effective on porous terrain, so aerated shaving cream-like lather is going to take a little longer to get the job done on gravel before getting the range and angle on the target. Fog nozzles are not optimal for this work.

We went on about the geometry of stream reach and angles for a while and concluded that a stream into a brow vent quite possibly may deflect against the cone roof and end up on top of the floating roof, making for a sinking or cocking problem. No real test data is readily available. Although there may be some out there we don't know about.

I spoke to a WF&HC guy a few years ago about these and fish-mouth jobs. He's been to a few and agreed, they're a crap-shoot, nothing straight forward about-em.

