

: henry@zoo.toronto.edu (Henry Spencer) writes:

: >There is an emergency oxygen system that is capable of maintaining a

: >breathable atmosphere in the cabin for long enough to come down, even

: >if there is something like a 5cm hole in the wall that nobody tries

: >to plug.

Josh Hopkins (jbh55289@uxa.cso.uiuc.edu) replied:

: Wow.

: Double wow. Can you land a shuttle with a 5cm hole in the wall?

Personnally, I don't know, but I'd like to try it sometime.

Programmatically, yes, we can land an Orbiter with a 5 cm hole in the wall -- provided that the thing which caused 5 cm hole didn't cause a Crit 1 failure on some of the internal systems. There are a few places where a 5 cm hole would cause a Bad Day -- especially if the 5 cm hole went all the way through the Orbiter and out the other side, as could easily happen with a meteor strike. But a hole in the pressure vessel would cause us to immediately de-orbit to the next available landing site.

-- Ken Jenks, NASA/JSC/GM2, Space Shuttle Program Office

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"NASA turns dreams into realities and makes science fiction

into fact" -- Daniel S. Goldin, NASA Administrator