



# Occupational Health Program

Monthly Newsletter August 2002

## ◆ NASA Workers Compensation Managers Conference Report

NASA Federal Workers' Compensation Officers and case managers met during the recent 4th Annual Federal Workers' Compensation Conference in Dallas, Texas on August 19-21, 2002. The U.S. Department of Labor's Director of Federal Employee Compensation acknowledged the 2,200 Federal employees killed or injured in the September 11th and anthrax attacks. Those cases will substantially increase the total Federal workers' compensation costs for fiscal accounting year 2002 which ended June 30th. NASA's costs for 2002 were down \$500,000 from the previous year, reflected in part by effective case management by center personnel to assure quick medical care for injured employees and return to work. Highlights included a demonstration of an improved version of automated injury and cost system for NASA cases which should go on-line in September 2002.



## ◆ 2002 OHP Conference Picture Scrapbook is on the OHP website

<http://ohp.ksc.nasa.gov/webalbum/2002OHP/index.html>

◆ **NASA Centers now have access to Chemwatch** Chemwatch is a comprehensive online database of chemical information with information presented in a very user friendly format. Hopefully it will be another useful tool for NASA Occupational Health Professionals to use for accessing chemical information. The website is <http://nasa.chemwatch.us>. Please contact Guy Camomilli for ID and password information.



◆ **Did you know that NASA Langley Research Center was the first government agency site to obtain the NASA VPP Star designation?** And just this month they successfully passed their first routine VPP reinspection. **CONGRATULATIONS** to the Langley Occupational Health program on a job well done!

◆ **New Agency-wide effort to develop outdoor laser guidance policy** The gradual increase in the number and types of outdoor lasers across the Agency has prompted the Principal Center for Occupational Health to evaluate the need for Agency-wide general policy guidelines on outdoor laser use. Although a rough Agency-wide survey of outdoor laser use has been completed, a more detailed evaluation is needed. In the near future there will be a letter from the Chief Health and Medical Officer requesting Center Directors to appoint a person as their Center's contact for outdoor laser use, and to provide detailed information on the number, types, and uses of their lasers that are used outdoors.



◆ **In July Ames Research Center successfully completed their JCAHO accreditation survey. CONGRATULATIONS** to Ames Occupational Medicine Program!

◆ **NASA Medical QA Program** The NASA Medical Quality Assurance (QA) Program document should be finalized during the month of September.



The quarterly report from Nursing Spectrum showed a total of 44 courses taken online during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of FY 2002 on a variety of health topics. This quarter we saw the highest utilization rate since this account was initiated in June 2000.

◆ **OHP NASA Center Evaluation Calendar** We are in the midst of scheduling the 2003 Center Evaluations, please make sure you have communicated with Guy Camomilli on the dates for your center's evaluation if it will be in 2003.

- o September 17-20 at Dryden Flight Research Center
- o September 23-26 at Ames Research Center

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### ◆ Upcoming Occupational Health ViTS

- o HP ViTS Outdoor Lasers, Mars Missions - Sept. 10
- o Health Promotion ViTS – Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>
- o EH ViTS Chemwatch Demonstration – Sept. 20