



Occupational Health Program

Monthly Newsletter September 2002

◆ **NASA reflects on September 11:** Administrator O'Keefe remembered those Americans that lost their lives on September 11 on a special broadcast. He reflected on the events of the past year, the strength of the American people and NASAs contributions. Frank L. [Culbertson](#), Jr. Commander of [Expedition Three](#) was the only American not on earth at the time of the terrorist attacks "It's horrible to see smoke pouring from wounds in your own country from such a fantastic vantage point. The dichotomy of being on a spacecraft dedicated to improving life on the earth and watching life being destroyed by such willful, terrible acts is jolting to the psyche, no matter who you are. I have confidence in our country and in our leadership that we will do everything possible to better defend her and our families, and to bring justice for what has been done."

◆ **Biological & Chemical Warfare and Terrorism:** A 6-series *Advanced Topics on Medical Defense Against Biological and Chemical Agents* sponsored by the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command will begin on November 6th with Smallpox: Recognition and Response. The series broadcasts every other month through August 2003. The broadcasts will be received and taped at KSC. CME, CNE and CEUs are offered. Copies of the tape can be requested from the Principal Center Support Office. Additional information can be obtained at www.biomedtraining.org.

◆ **OSHA Issues Final Rule on Hearing Loss Recordkeeping:** Beginning Jan. 1, 2003, employers will be required to record work-related hearing loss cases when an employee's hearing test shows a marked decrease in overall hearing. Employers can make adjustments for hearing loss caused by aging, seek the advice of a physician or licensed health care professional to determine if the loss is work-related and perform additional hearing tests to verify the persistence of the hearing loss. Under the new rule the criteria will require employers to record 10-decibel shifts from the employee's initial hearing test when they also result in an overall hearing level of 25 decibels. The old criteria required employers to record 25 decibel shifts.

◆ NASA Health Promotion and Wellness

Team: The quarterly health topics for the 1st quarter of FY 2003 are Cold and Flu Vaccines and Prostate Cancer. On the September 19th ViTS Dr. Salib, KSC physician provided an update on prostate cancer.

◆ **Agency Occupation Health (OH) Statement of Work (SOW) Project:** To increase standardization and continuity across the Centers, a project to develop model SOW for the OHP was begun last year and the initial drafts are now complete. The project includes six primary elements EAP, Health Fitness Center, Occupational Medicine, Industrial Hygiene, Health Physics and Emergency Response. Anyone wanting to review and contribute to the SOWs can contact Bart Geyer or Helen Shoemaker.

◆ **NASA Medical QA Program:** The final draft of the NASA Medical Quality Assurance Program has been completed. Centers should be receiving the document soon.

◆ **2002 OHP Conference Proceedings:** The final draft of the Proceedings has been completed. They should be sent to all participants in October.

◆ **2003 OHP Conference:** The 2003 Conference is scheduled for August 4th to 8th in San Diego, California at the Loews Coronado Resort.

◆ Agency OHP Sponsored Health Physics Training at NASA Centers:

- 40 hour RSO Course at Kennedy 9/30-10/4
 - 40 hour RSO Course at Marshall 11/4-11/8
 - 16 hour Non-ionizing Course at Langley 11/15, 11/16
- If interested in attending any of these courses please contact Bart Geyer.

◆ OHP NASA Center Evaluation Calendar:

- September 17-20 at Dryden Flight Research Center
- September 23-26 at Ames Research Center
- October 29- November 1 at Michoud Assembly Facility

◆ Upcoming Occupational Health ViTS

- EAP Officers ViTS - Oct 9, 3:30 – 4:30 EST
- EH ViTS - October 16, 2:00-3:00 EST
- Workers' Compensation ViTS - Nov 4, 2:30-3:30 EST

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Send information, comments or questions to:

◆ E-mail - Bart.Geyer-1@ksc.nasa.gov ◆ Telephone - 867-3473

Find OHP Monthly on the Internet at <http://ohp.nasa.gov/>

o Health Promotion ViTS-Dec. 3rd 3:00-4:00 EST