



Occupational Health Program

Monthly Newsletter December 2002



◆ Happy Holidays!!

The Agency OHP and Support Office wish you all a happy and safe holiday season. Best wishes for a healthy, prosperous and safe New Year!!

◆ American Board of Occupational Health Nurses (ABOHN) ABOHN is an

independent nursing specialty certification board established in 1972. It is the sole certifying body for occupational health nurses in the U.S. The exam for COHN and COHN-S is offered in the spring and fall each year. ABOHN also offers a certification in Case Management.

◆ **Congratulations** for successfully passing the COHN examination offered this fall to:

Sandra Amundson, RN, Chief Nurse, JSC

Joanne Caracciolo, RN, Staff Nurse, KSC

◆ **NASA Health Promotion and Wellness Team:** The team ViTS was on December 3rd ViTS. Dr. Smallwood, KSC Deputy Medical Director reviewed the KSC Health and Fitness Initiative planned for February 3rd to 7th. The three keynote speakers will be broadcast on NASA Select at all Centers. The first quarter FY 2003 influenza immunization program has been going well at all Centers. Many Centers have offered the immunization outside of the clinic and the outreach efforts have been very successful in increasing participation. The upcoming quarterly promotion will focus on Ergonomics.

◆ NIOSH Study Identifies Industries/ Occupations Prone to Chronic Lung Disease

A new NIOSH [study](#) identifies industries and occupations with an increased risk for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

◆ **Occupational Hearing Loss Recordkeeping Issues Clarified:** OSHA has [clarified](#) three matters in relation to the final rule issued last July on recording occupational hearing loss. The issues deal with 1) audiometric tests for workers in the shipbuilding industry, 2) *the applicable baseline for computing a standard threshold shift*, and 3) *how OSHA will treat an expected increase in the number of recorded cases resulting from new recordkeeping definitions requirements.*

◆ **National Advisory Committee on Ergonomics:** Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao announced on Dec 3, 2002 the selection of 15 individuals from industry, academia, labor, legal and the medical professions to form OSHA's National Advisory Committee on Ergonomics (NACE). The committee will advise the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health on a number of issues related to OSHA's four-pronged approach to reducing ergonomic-related injuries in the workplace – *guidelines, research, outreach and assistance, and enforcement.*

◆ **CDC Issues Handwashing Guideline:** The October 2002 MMWR issued a Guideline for Hand Hygiene in Healthcare Settings. This is the Recommendation of the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee and Hand Hygiene Task Force. It can be found at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5116a1.htm>

◆ **Occupational Health Program Metrics:** Centers recently completed a Gap Analysis for Health Maintenance Examinations. This is the 3rd year the survey has been completed. The compliance with NASA issued Guidelines for Health Maintenance Examinations since FY 2001 has increased. For Complete Exams the compliance increased from 82% to 91% and Partial Exams increased from 84% to 92% between FY 2001 and FY 2003.

◆ **CDC Online Training:** The CDC's Smallpox Vaccination and Adverse Event Training Module is on the OHP Website at:

<http://ohp.nasa.gov/training/>

◆ **2003 NASA Safety Managers and Medical and Environmental Health COTR's Meeting:** The 2003 Conference is scheduled for February 3rd to 7th at the Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront Hotel, Cocoa Beach, Florida. For more information and to register for the Meeting please go to

http://ohp.ksc.nasa.gov/conference_info/2003/sh_conf/index.html

◆ **2003 NASA Occupational Health Conference:** The 2003 Conference is scheduled for August 4th to 8th at the Loews Coronado Bay Resort, San Diego, CA. The theme for this Conference is "**Enhancing Performance Through Interdisciplinary Team Work**". We look forward to hearing from you regarding topics on which we should be focusing. Please email Sandy Kreer, Conference Coordinator, with your suggestions at: KreerSL@kscems.ksc.nasa.gov.

◆ OHP NASA Center Evaluation Calendar:

- JPL, March 31st to April 3rd

◆ Upcoming Occupational Health ViTS:

- EH ViTS – January 21st, 1:30-2:30 EST
- Health Promotion ViTS-March 17th, 3:30-4:30 EST
- EAP ViTS – April 7th, 3:30-4:30 EST
- Fitness ViTS – April 14, 1:30-2:30 EST

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