

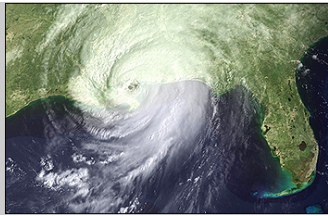


OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Monthly Newsletter September 2005

◆ Occupational Health Responds to Hurricane Katrina

Katrina: On August 29 Hurricane Katrina ripped through the Gulf Coast states impacting both NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility (MAF) in New Orleans, LA and Stennis Space Center (SSC) in Bay St. Louis, MS.



On September 8 & 9 in response to the disaster, representatives of the Agency Occupational Health (OH) office under the leadership of Dr. Williams surveyed the two

affected sites to assess OH impacts and support needs. The Agency office has been coordinating staffing support by sending OH personnel from around the Agency to support both facilities since the storm. This includes Employee Assistance Program (EAP), Medical, and Environmental Health personnel. OH personnel from other NASA sites are scheduled to continue this post hurricane support for the immediate future. Many of the



OH staff at both MAF and SSC have lost their homes and personal belongings, and yet many have continued to go to work in this most difficult time. We want to

recognize their efforts and the Agency OH Office will continue to support them in this challenging time. As part of this overall effort a new [hurricane resources webpage](#) has been created to help OH professionals get hurricane response information they need quickly from trusted information sources.

◆ **Joyce Eagan is Retiring:** Joyce Eagan, a long term advocate of the NASA Occupational Medicine and Environmental Health program, will be retiring effective Sept. 30, 2005. Joyce joined the NASA Family in 1964 during the Von Braun era. She has had responsibilities within the MSFC medical services program for more than 2 decades. She was the recipient of the NASA HQ Occupational Health Program Award in 1988 and the NASA Space Flight Awareness Award in 2000. Her commitment and dedication to the program will be missed.



◆ Electronic Health Records (EHRs) Project Update:

We are very excited about John Eckmann joining the Occupational Health Support Office staff as a Health Informatics Specialist on October 3. He will assume the leadership for the Electronic Health Record System project. A ViTS for the EHRs Task Force is scheduled for Tuesday, November 1, from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM EDT. This will be an opportunity to introduce John and for the Task Force members

to introduce themselves. An update on the current status of the EHRs project will be presented by Dr. Hoffler during the ViTS.

◆ **HealthierNASA 2005 Update:** With the release of "[Tiny Bites](#)", all the components of the *HealthierNASA 2005* campaign have been completed. "Tiny Bites Total Big Calories" is an online educational tool that includes a simple exercise to assess caloric intake and expenditure. The tool is gender specific with the option to print a one page educational flyer ([female](#), [male](#)). The campaign components for *HealthierNASA 2006* are being finalized and will be discussed at a later date.

◆ 2006 NASA Safety Directors / Occupational Health Managers Meeting:

The 2006 NASA Safety Directors / Occupational Health Managers Meeting will be held January 30 – February 2, in Cocoa Beach, FL at the Doubletree Hotel. Details about the meeting will soon be posted to the OH [Conferences and Meetings](#) webpage.



◆ **OH Training Needs Survey:** To give the Agency Occupational Health Support Office a better understanding of the overall training needs at the NASA Centers and Facilities we have created an [online survey](#) targeted for all NASA Occupational Medicine and Environmental Health staff. The results of this survey will help the Agency better plan for the various training opportunities it provides throughout the year.

◆ **Agency Radiation Policy Update:** An HP ViTS will be held in the next few weeks, and will be dedicated to discussing the newly created draft NASA Agency Radiation policy. If you would like to receive a copy of the draft policy or have a question about the ViTS please contact [Kurt Geber](#).

◆ **HP Staff Recognition:** Congratulations to Jeannine Darrett, Senior Safety and Health Professional and Radiation Safety Support Engineer in the Occupational Safety Program Office at JPL. Jeannine just started in the Master of Science Radiation Health Physics Program at Oregon State University.



◆ **Hearing Conservation Policy Discussion:** On October 17, from 3:30-5:00 there will be a ViTS held to discuss the proposed revisions to the Agency Hearing Conservation Program (HCP) Policy, NPR 1820.1. All who are involved with Center HCPs and all who would like to comment on the proposed policy should attend this ViTS. If you have not received a copy of policy revisions please contact [Guy Camomilli](#).



◆ NASA OH Center Review Calendar:

• October 24 - 26 – Headquarters

◆ Upcoming Occupational Health ViTS:

- Hearing Conservation – October 17, 3:30-5:00 PM EDT
- EH Monthly ViTS – October 19, 11:00-12:00 PM EDT
- EAP ViTS – October 25, 3:00-4:00 PM EDT
- EHRs ViTS – November 1, 11:00-12:30 PM EDT

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Send information, comments or questions to:

◆ E-mail – Bart.Geyer-1@ksc.nasa.gov ◆ Telephone – 321-867-3473

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