



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Monthly Newsletter February 2006

◆ Registration Open for the NASA 2006 OH

Conference: The [registration](#) is now open for the OH Conference. During the online registration process you will be asked to identify what events and courses you will be planning on attending. The current [agenda](#) is posted to assist you in making your choices. If you plan to attend this years conference please make sure you 1) register for the meeting on our website and 2) reserve your room at the hotel. The [Francis Marion](#) Hotel



will be the site of the conference and rooms can be reserved there for the government rate of \$89. All the information is located on the [Conference webpage](#).

◆ Electronic Health Record System (EHRS)

Update: The collaboration with the Indian Health Services (IHS) has continued with regularly scheduled conference calls. This month John Eckmann and Frankie Ramos traveled to the [Micmac IHS Clinic](#) located in Presque, Maine to experience first hand the implementation and deployment of the IHS EHRS. In preparation for the NASA EHRS customization and OH module development, clinical work flows for each type of service offered in our OH clinics are being developed. This process identifies the process flow with the system inputs, outputs, and interfaces needed for standardization within the EHRS.

◆ NASA Meets 2005 SHARE GOALS: In January 2004, President Bush issued the [Safety, Health, and Return to Employment \(SHARE\) Initiative](#) instructing federal agencies to establish goals in a three year program to reduce the number and severity of civil service workplace injuries and illnesses. In 2004 NASA bettered our goals and was recognized with an Outstanding Performance Award by the Department of Labor for achieving a greater than 10% reduction in total and lost time case rates. The rates for 2005 have just been released, and NASA has again further reduced accidents and illnesses by *over 10%*, one of the few federal agencies to do so. Fewer accidents and illnesses, and a lessened severity of accidents contribute to a healthier and safer workforce, increases productivity and reduces the cost of doing business. NASA has one of the lowest accident and illness rates among all federal agencies.

◆ Fitness News: President Bush has declared: "Better health is an individual responsibility and an important national goal". The month of May has been designated National Physical Fitness and Sports Month. NASA has been designated as a [50th anniversary partner](#) for the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. Each NASA fitness facility will have special events to increase awareness of healthful living and the benefits of a regular fitness program. Everyone can benefit from exercise! In a report from the Surgeon General of the United States: "There is good news for all Americans. Scientific



evidence shows that physical activity done at a moderate-intensity level can produce health benefits. If people have been sedentary, they can improve their health and well-being with regular, moderate levels of activity each day". For more information visit [fitness.gov](#).

◆ Two KSC IHs Honored: On February 7, two KSC IHs were honored at the KSC Annual Honor Awards for their contributions at KSC. *Robin Kramer* was recognized for coordinating EH support for DART teams subsequent to Hurricane Frances and Jeanne, overseeing various high profile ergonomic evaluations, a HCI wireless remote monitoring system for Return to Flight. *John Sherwood* was also recognized at the ceremony for developing an IAQ hazard ranking matrix to allow corrective actions for facilities to be prioritized based on health hazards identified. The matrix is used by contractors to track IAQ issues for facilities Centerwide.

◆ OH Response to Katrina and S&H Manager Meeting Presentations Online: Presentations from the [Katrina](#) (1/31) and the [Safety and Health Manager](#) (2/1-2/3) meetings are online. Both meetings focused on *Emergency Planning* and feedback to both sessions was very positive.

◆ NASA OH Staff Awarded Exceptional Bravery

Medal: On January 5th three personnel from the Michoud Assembly Facility (MAF) who are part of the NASA Occupational Health community were awarded the [NASA Exceptional Bravery](#) award by NASA administrator Mike Griffin. This award had only been given to 36 people in NASA prior to this day, when [38 MAF personnel](#) were honored. This includes *Steve Turner*, Safety Senior Manager, *Mike Moore*, Industrial Safety and Occupational Health Manager, and *Alan Rovira*, Senior Industrial Hygienist. We heartily congratulate Steve, Mike and Alan, and thank them for the sacrifices they made before, during, and after Katrina.



◆ NASA IHs to Gather in Chicago: On Monday, May 15, NASA IHs will be gathering in Chicago during the [American Industrial Hygiene Conference & Exposition](#) (AIHCE). If you are planning to attend the NASA IH meeting please notify [Bart Geyer](#).



◆ NASA OH Center Review Calendar:

- March 14 - 16 – Stennis Space Center
- ◆ **Upcoming Occupational Health ViTS:**
- ICHE ViTS – March 3, 10:00-12:00 PM EST
- Health Promotion ViTS – March 10, 11:00-12:30 PM
- EH ViTS – March 15, 11:00-12:00 PM EST
- Health Physics ViTS – March 15, 12:30-1:30 PM EST
- ICHE ViTS – March 17, 10:00-12:00 PM EST

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