

Agency Occupational Health

Promoting NASA's Skin Cancer Prevention Program "Solar Safe" at NASA Centers

1. Program Overview

The majority, seven out of fourteen, of the NASA Centers are located in the Sunbelt. As a result, the NASA workforce is potentially at risk for developing some forms of skin cancer in greater numbers than normally expected as a result of excessive exposure to the sun. The goal of the Solar Safe Program is to improve the health and safety of the workforce and maintain operational capabilities. The Program shall utilize modern technology, administrative controls, increased education and awareness, and medical surveillance to build a standardized and comprehensive approach to skin cancer prevention for all NASA Centers.

2. Scope

The Program is applicable to civil service personnel at all NASA Centers. NASA contractors may participate with the concurrence of their contract management and NASA Contracting Officers.

3. Health Education and Promotion

Beginning in 2000, OHP personnel at NASA Centers will begin the implementation of the Solar Safe Program. Health promotion efforts included increasing awareness of associated risks through employee education, and prevention through screening and early detection.

Activities to increase awareness about skin cancer should be on going throughout the year. Health information can be provided using written materials such as posters, newsletters, brochures, pamphlets, bulletin boards or during health fairs. Electronic media such as electronic mail, Center newsletters and Web pages are also available. Health education at each Center should be focused on skin cancer and its prevention. Education sessions can include lectures, self-paced learning materials, or demonstrations. The following agencies are recommended for obtaining health education materials, speakers and support for program implementation.

- American Cancer Society
- American Academy of Dermatology
- American Public Health Association
- American Board of Preventive Medicine

The Agency Occupational Health Support Office shall periodically provide relevant educational material and keep their website, www.ohp.nasa.gov, current with information and links to governmental and non-governmental sites.

4. Skin Cancer Screening and Detection

Skin cancer screenings should be offered as part of the Solar Safe Program to reduce both personal and occupational risks. A physician on staff or a dermatologist from the local healthcare community can perform skin cancer screening examinations based on the most current recommendations. At the time of examination, a referral list of skin cancer specialists should be available for those with suspected skin cancers. Outdoor workers should be offered annual total body skin examinations. At the time of examination education on how to perform skin self-examination should be provided.

5. Administrative and Protective Measures

Administrative controls should be considered to reduce the amount and duration of solar exposure. Outside work activities may be avoidable (consistent with operational needs) during peak hours or at the least from 1100 to 1300 hours. Encouraging flexibility in work schedules and encouraging employees to wear long sleeves, full-length pants or nylons, sunglasses and brimmed caps or hats are examples of administrative controls and Personal Protection. NASA Centers should provide sunscreen dispensers at appropriate locations for those involved in outside work activities and at fitness centers for those exercising outdoors.

6. Program Metrics

Center specific data should be collected and submitted periodically to the Office of the Chief Health and Medical Officer. The following data elements would be helpful in determining the effectiveness of the Solar Safe Program but the Center is allowed to expand on the data points:

Screenings

- 1) Total number of participants screened for skin cancer
- 2) Percent of total employee/contractor population reached
- 3) Number of total body examinations performed
- 4) Number of dermatology referrals
 - a) New referrals
 - i) Number of referrals
 - ii) Type of cancer
 - iii) Case outcome, when known
 - b) Referrals to employee/contractor treating dermatologist
 - i) Number of referrals
 - ii) Type of cancer
 - iii) Case outcome, where known

- 5) Total number of new cancers detected
 - a) Non-melanomatous cancer
 - b) Malignant melanoma cancer

7. Resources

The following list of resources is provided to assist NASA Center personnel in implementing the Solar Safe Program.

a. Agencies

American Academy of Dermatology www.aad.org	American Academy of Family Physicians www.aafp.org/online/en/home.html
American Academy of Dermatology www.aad.org	American Academy of Family Physicians www.aafp.org/online/en/home.html
American Cancer Society www.cancer.org	American Institute for Cancer Research www.aicr.org
American Medical Association www.ama-assn.org	Federal Trade Commission www.ftc.gov
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/index.htm	U. S. General Services Administration www.pueblo.gsa.gov/health.htm

b. Vendors

Health Edco www.healthedco.com	Hope Publications www.hopehealth.com
Krames/Staywell www.krames.com	Mayo Clinic www.mayoclinic.com
The Skin Cancer Foundation www.skincancer.org	Positive Promotions www.positivepromotions.com

c. Protective Equipment Resources

Conney www.conney.com	Fisher Safety Fisher Scientific new.fishersci.com
Lab Safety Supply www.labsafety.com	North Safety Products North Safety Products www.northsafety.com

