



Occupational Health Program

Monthly Newsletter January 2003

◆ Biological & Chemical Warfare and Terrorism

Training: The U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command is offering a six-part satellite broadcast on *Advanced Topics on Medical Defense Against Biological and Chemical Agents*. The series began in November 2002 and will run until August 2003. The November session *Smallpox: Recognition and Response* and the January session *Nerve Agent and Sulfur Mustard Casualties* were taped by the OHP Support Office. Centers can request copies of those broadcasts by contacting Stephanie Odom at Odomsm@kscems.ksc.nasa.gov or 321-867-9185.

◆ **Current OSHA Agenda:** OSHA has announced its semi-annual regulatory agenda, and keeping with his promise, OSHA director John Henshaw has kept the agenda to a minimum number of issues. **Prerule Stage** 1) Confined Spaces in Construction 2) Occupational Exposure to Ethylene Oxide, 3) Occupational Exposure to Beryllium, 4) Hearing Conservation Program for Construction Workers **Proposed Rule Stage** 1) Assigned Protection Factors, Occupational Exposure to Hexavalent Chromium, 2) Occupational Exposure to Crystalline Silica, 3) Standards Improvement for General Industry, Marine Terminals, and Construction, 4) Amendment to Final Rule on Respiratory Protection

◆ **Utilizing the NASA Safety Training Center (NSTC):** A great training resource available free to most all of us at our NASA Centers are the courses offered through the NSTC. These courses are split into 4 main categories of training with one area being **Occupational/Industrial Health and Safety**. To see the latest schedule of these courses and course descriptions go to <http://www4.jsc.nasa.gov/safety/Training/>

◆ **NASA Health Promotion and Wellness Team:** This quarters health promotion topic is ergonomics. Team members will be working with other Center resources. Each Center received preventative and disease management health promotion materials to support their efforts. The topics are the two remaining quarters will be Allergies/Asthma and Oral Hygiene/oral cancers.

◆ **Professional Association and Certification Spotlight:** The **Council for Accreditation in Occupational Hearing Conservation** (CAOHC) was created to fill the need for guidelines and standards in the occupational hearing conservation field. The main objective is to provide education information and guidance to

Industry and those serving industry regarding the successful implementation of an occupational hearing program. One of the ways they achieve this is through certifying occupational hearing conservationists (OHC). To become CAOHC certified as an OHC you must 1) Complete a CAOHC-approved 20 hour certification course, 2) submit an application to the CAOHC and 3) include a \$60 fee for certification to CAOHC. Many of the NIOSH Education and Research Centers offer the initial 3 day and 1 day refresher courses. Their website is www.caohc.org. For anyone actively involved with managing a hearing conservation program this is a worthwhile certification to acquire and maintain.

◆ **OHP Influenza Vaccine Update:** Agency wide a total of 19,848 flu vaccines were given to NASA civil servants (7567), contractors (11748) and others (533) during the 1st Quarter of FY 2003.

◆ **NASA Center EH Professional Spotlight:** In the November edition of the AIHA Synergist Jeff Behar, Health and Safety Professional at JPL, authored an article titled **Working Safely with Cryogenics: What Every OEHS Professional Should Know**. Many of the NASA Centers use cryogenics and this is a good concise summary of what as EH professional we should know concerning cryogenics. Jeff Behar is also currently the vice chair of the *AIHA Protective Clothing and Equipment Committee* and is a resource for technical direction in this area.

◆ **2003 NASA Safety Managers and Medical and Environmental Health COTR's Meeting:** The 2003 Conference is scheduled for February 3rd to 6th 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.

◆ **OHP NASA Center Evaluation Calendar:**

- JPL – April 1st to April 4th

◆ **Upcoming Occupational Health ViTS:**

- EH ViTS – February 14th, 2:00-3:00 EST
- Health Promotion ViTS – March 17th, 3:30-4:30 EST
- EH ViTS – March 14th, 2:00-3:00 EST

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