



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Monthly Newsletter March 2005

◆ Agency Occupational Health Office Receives One NASA Peer Awards:

The Agency Occupational Health Office has received two [One NASA Peer Awards](#). An award was received for the team effort in coordinating the sharing of the available influenza vaccine among NASA Centers. This unprecedented team effort ensured the availability of influenza vaccine at each center for individuals meeting the CDC criteria for high risk. The second award was for the Safety, Health and Environmental Audit Overlap Project. Congratulations to Guy Camomilli, Art Lee and Mike McNeill for their efforts in conjunction with this project.

◆ 2005 NASA Occupational Health (OH) Conference Update:

The annual OH Conference in Lake Tahoe is fast approaching. This year's conference agenda is designed to stimulate conversation and interaction among NASA Centers, to learn through participation, and to find new avenues for productive networking. Poster abstracts are due on April 1st. Complete instructions have been [posted](#) on our website. We encourage all Center OH personnel to consider presenting a poster which will support the Conference theme of "Toward a Healthier NASA: Successes and Innovation."



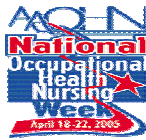
Hotel reservations must be made by **April 25**, to ensure the government rate of \$80 plus tax (\$96 total).

◆ Electronic Health Record System (EHRS) Update:

A status update of the EHRS project was presented at the recent Safety Directors/OH Managers Meeting. The project highlights were well received with several recommendations voiced among meeting participants to continue the development of a standardized interface between clinical and safety information systems. Project managers for the EHRS and the recently deployed safety system (IRIS 2) agreed that the capability to share required information should be developed.

◆ 2005 National Occupational Health Nursing Week:

OHNs: Making Your Workplace and Community Healthy and Safe. The week of April 18-22, is National Occupational Health Nursing Week. Your NASA Center OHN staff members are working this week – and each and every day – to champion your health and safety on the job.



◆ Alcohol Based Hand Sanitizers in Wall Mounted Dispensers:

Alcohol based hand sanitizers are an important strategy to improving healthcare hand hygiene practices and reducing infection. National, local and state fire codes have specific regulations for mounting these dispensers in health care facilities. It is recommended that Centers work with their local fire marshal to ensure dispenser installations are consistent with local fire codes. Go to the [American Society for Healthcare Engineering Website](#) or the [CDC Website](#) for more information on this subject.

◆ NASA Health Physics Conference Announcement:

The NASA Health Physics (HP) Conference are close to being finalized.



The agenda, registration and other relevant information has been posted on the [HP Conference Webpage](#). Attendees need to register for the conference on the conference webpage.

◆ Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) Preparatory Course:

13 IHs from 9 NASA sites attended the CIH Preparatory Course at the Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health in Salt Lake City Utah



from March 7-11. This was an intense 5 day course. Over 12 speakers delivered lectures on over 28 IH related topics. The course is designed to prepare the IH professional for the CIH exam.

◆ Are You Interested in Attending an Agency Sponsored Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) Course?:

The Agency OH office is working towards sponsoring a week long RSO training course to be hosted at a yet to be determined NASA Center. If you are interested in attending or sending a staff member to the course please contact [Kurt Geber](#).

◆ 2005 Safety Directors/OH Managers Meeting:

2005 Safety Directors/OH Managers Meeting was held February 28, through March 3, 2005, in Cocoa Beach, FL. All meeting [presentations](#) are now available to review online.

◆ **June Health Promotion ViTS:** Saralyn Mark, MD, Sr. Medical Advisor for the Department of Health and Human Services and NASA OCHMO on Women's Health Issues, will be presenting on Cardiovascular Disease as part of our continuing lecture series on nutrition and obesity during June's Health Promotion ViTS.

◆ Are You Interested in Attending a Biosafety Course?:

In May, the Agency OH office will be sponsoring a 1.5 day "Principles of Biosafety" at the Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, OH. The class will present basic background information on classes of microorganisms, mechanisms of disease transmission, and methods to assess the risk associated with the laboratory manipulation of these agents. The course is open to all NASA OH personnel, if interested in attending please contact [Betty Hodgson](#).



◆ NASA OH Center Review Calendar:

- April 11 – 14: Goddard Space Flight Center
- April 18 – 20: Wallops Flight Center

◆ Upcoming Occupational Health ViTS:

- International Travel ViTS – March 30, 11-12:00 PM EST
- Workers' Compensation ViTS – April 19, 11-12:00 PM EST
- EH Monthly ViTS – April 20, 11:00-12:00 PM EST
- EAP ViTS – April 26, 3:00-4:00 PM EST

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Send information, comments or questions to:

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

Find OH Monthly on the Internet at <http://ohp.nasa.gov/>