



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Monthly Newsletter December 2005

◆ Nothing Could be Finer than to be in Carolina; OH Conference Moves to Charleston, SC:

Due to Hurricane Katrina the 2006 NASA OH Conference is being relocated from New Orleans to beautiful and historic Charleston, SC. The meeting will focus on Disaster Preparedness related to Occupational Health and will be held from July 17-21, at the [Francis Marion](#) Hotel in the historic downtown area. The Historic Downtown District has stood



throughout Charleston's history as the cultural capital of the South and is considered by many to be a living museum, with a wonderful variety of things to do and see. In this beautifully preserved city you can experience tours through historic landmarks, including 18th century homes and plantations, the Battery, museums, churches and the city market. The



number of historic sites in Charleston is astonishing. Charleston also boasts numerous art galleries that display the city's impressive appreciation for the visual arts. The restored [Francis Marion](#) Hotel has been at the heart of the city's social, business, and community life since opening in 1924. More information will soon be available on the [OH Conference & Meetings Page](#).

◆ Electronic Health Record System (EHRS)

Project Update: The EHRS Task Force has a ViTS scheduled for Monday, Feb 27, 2006, 12:30 - 2:30 PM EST. Mark your calendars now! There are several EHRS Project issues which will benefit from a collaborative Task Force review and recommendation. Recently, an EHRS Steering Committee was created to oversee the short-term planning and long-term success of NASA's EHRS. The EHRS Steering Committee will meet monthly to discuss the EHRS Project and to ensure that the project adheres to known best practices. Finally, the [OH EHRS webpage](#) will continue to evolve to better serve the EHRS Project. Happy Computing!

◆ Contingency Planning for the Pluto Mission:

Randy Scott, KSC's Radiation Protection Officer, is looking forward to T plus forty seconds when at that point he can breathe easier after thousands of man-hours devoted to planning contingency actions for the [Pluto New Horizons](#) mission. Randy, along with the assistance of Rod Nickell, KSC and Mark Phillips, JPL leads the team of health physics specialists tasked with providing protective action guidance for the Governor of Florida in the event of a launch accident involving a radiological release. The power source for the spacecraft, a radioisotope thermoelectric generator (RTG), uses heat from the decay of plutonium dioxide to produce electricity. The launch window currently extends from January 17 - February 14, 2006.



◆ Dr. Hoffler is Retiring:

Dr. Wyckliffe Hoffler has been with the OH Support Office since its inception at KSC in 1997; prior to that he worked for NASA at KSC and JSC since 1968. Highly regarded by his colleagues, he has been a tremendous asset to the Agency OH organization and has significantly contributed to many projects over the past 8 years. Most recently he has dedicated almost all of his time leading the agency EHRS effort which continues to move forward. We wish [Dr. Hoffler](#) all the best in his retirement and thank him for all his efforts to NASA Occupational Health.



◆ 2006 NASA Safety Directors / Occupational Health Managers Meeting:

This meeting is to be held February 1 - February 3 in Cocoa Beach, FL, to present the status of Agency safety and occupational health programs and policies, and to address current topics and emphasis areas of health and safety. A [special session](#) focused on the occupational health response to the catastrophic events of Hurricane Katrina is scheduled for Tuesday, January 31. In addition to [registering](#) for the meeting online, each individual guest must make his/her own reservation by calling the hotel's toll-free number 1-800-552-3224, and ask for the NSD Group Rate, no later than *Monday, January 13, 2006*, in order to guaranteed the government rate. Federal Employees can also reserve a room via CIA travel by giving them the Group Rate ID.



◆ HealthierNASA Update:

HealthierNASA 2006 calendars and have been received at the OH Support Office. Calendars are in the process of being mailed to the Centers this week. Nutrition is the focus of *HealthierNASA* 2006 Campaign for the months of January through March. In support of this topic two educational posters are in print and our website has been enhanced with a [weekly nutrition tip](#).



◆ Congratulations to Marvin Bunting: In spite of Hurricane Katrina and the damage to New Orleans Marvin Bunting, an IH from Wallops, was able to complete his masters degree this December from Tulane. His degree is in Public Health and Industrial Hygiene from Tulane Universities School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. Kudos to Marvin on this important academic accomplishment!



◆ NASA OH Center Review Calendar:

- January 23 - 27 - Kennedy Space Center

◆ Upcoming Occupational Health ViTS:

- ICHE ViTS - January 6, 10:00-12:00 PM EST
- EH ViTS - January 12, 11:00-12:00 PM EST
- ICHE ViTS - January 20, 10:00-12:00 PM EST
- EAP ViTS - January 25, 11:00-12:30 PM EST

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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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