



# OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Monthly Newsletter January 2006

## ◆ NASA 2006 OH Conference Update:



Plans are moving forward for the OH Conference being held July 17-21. The conference theme this year will be "Occupational Health Response to Catastrophic Events:

*Disaster Preparedness for a Healthier NASA*". A tentative agenda and registration will be posted to the website before the end of February. 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 beautiful [Francis Marion Hotel](#) will be the site of the conference and rooms can be reserved there for the government rate of \$89. This rate is guaranteed until *Thursday, June 22, 2006, at 5:00 PM EST*. When calling the hotel (843-722-0600 or 1-877-756-2121) and making your reservation, please refer to the 2006 NASA Occupational Health Conference to ensure you receive the conference rate. All reservations must be guaranteed and accompanied by a first night room deposit or guaranteed with a major credit card. This information and more will soon be available on the [OH Conferences & Meetings page](#).

## ◆ Electronic Health Record System (EHRS)

**Project Update:** The EHRS Task Force has a ViTS scheduled for February 27, 2006, 1:00 - 2:00 PM EST. EHRS project issues benefiting from Task Force energies are the crafting of FAQs and reviewing preliminary risk assessment and project prioritization documentation. The EHRS Steering Committee (IHS and NASA) has monthly conference call scheduled to discuss pertinent issues as the project advances through initiation and development phases in preparing for implementation challenges. The EHRS Steering Committee is positioning the project with oversight of short-term planning to guide and recommend best practices intended to ensure long-term success of NASA's EHRS. Finally, the [EHRS webpage](#) will evolve to better serve the EHRS Project. Interested individuals are encouraged to check this page regularly for related EHRS information and to track the progress of the EHRS Project.

**◆ HealthierNASA Update:** Last year, we introduced a year long health awareness campaign titled 2005 *Healthier NASA*. This year, 2006 *HealthierNASA* promotes the same message of *Personal Accountability for Health and Safety* by enlisting a variety of tools such as the attractive 2006 [Calendar](#) and a variety of short self assessment tests accessible from our [website](#).



**◆ OH Website Update:** The OH program [evaluation tools](#) used during Center Evaluations for occupational medicine,

industrial hygiene, and health physics have been added to the Policies/NASA Occupational Health Documents, Guidelines and Checklists page. The regulations and requirements for each question has been added to the tools.

**◆ Center OH Staff Changes:** Dr. Marleece Barber, Medical Director at Michoud has left the position this month. We appreciate the leadership she has provided during her employment. Wendyann Wyatt, LCSW, is the new EAP for Kennedy Space Center. In another EAP staffing change Dr. Dan Fusilier, who is the post-doctoral fellow working at Dryden, has left the position this month. In recent months a new EAP has also begun at Glenn, Angie Gentile. We warmly welcome both new EAP employees to the NASA OH Program.

## ◆ OH Response to Katrina and S&H Manager Meeting Update:

The response to this years [NASA S&H Manager's Meeting](#) has been above average. In addition to this annual gathering, registration for the daylong [OH Response to Katrina Meeting](#) on January 31, has also been very strong with over 50 people planning to attend. The purpose of the Katrina meeting will be to identify the emergency and occupational medicine, environmental health, and employee assistance roles, capabilities, and plans for confronting future catastrophic events, whether man-made or natural. The meeting is designed to produce an after-action report for planning, assessing, training, codifying and supporting the medical response for the Agency. Agendas are on the [website](#).



## ◆ OSHA Publishes HAZWOPER Guidance

**Document:** Complying with 29 CFR 1910.120 can be confusing and difficult to understand. A new safety and health [guidance document](#) posted on the web in December by OSHA will assist workers and employers in determining whether an activity is, or would be considered, an "emergency response" activity under OSHA's Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) standard. The OSHA guide provides an overview of the conditions in which a response or cleanup activity may fall under the requirements of HAZWOPER. It is divided into two sections: The Application of HAZWOPER to Worksite Response and Cleanup Activities and Employee Training for Worksite Response and Cleanup Activities. Each section links to useful information and practical guidance to help with the appropriate response.

## ◆ NASA OH Center Review Calendar:

- March 13 - 17 – Stennis Space Center

## ◆ Upcoming Occupational Health ViTS:

- ICHE ViTS – February 3, 10:00-12:00 PM EST
- Fitness ViTS – February 16, 3:30-5:00 PM
- ICHE ViTS – February 17, 10:00-12:00 PM EST
- EH ViTS – February 23, 11:00-12:00 PM EST
- EHRS Task Force – February 27, 1:00-2:00 PM EST

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