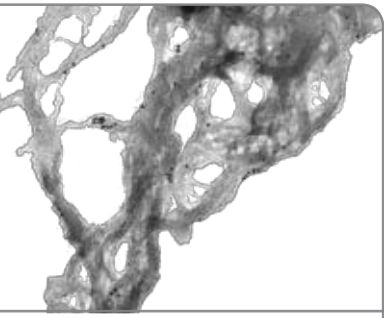


# The Nanotechnology Field Research Team Update



In 2006, NIOSH established a Nanotechnology Field Research Team to expand its knowledge and understanding of the potential health and safety risks that workers may encounter during the research, production, and use of engineered nanomaterials. This effort has complimented NIOSH's extensive laboratory-based research program, as well as helped NIOSH identify and more fully understand the variety of work processes used to generate and manufacture engineered nanomaterials. It has also provided NIOSH with the opportunity to observe and evaluate work practices and engineering controls used to ensure worker health and safety in the nanotechnology industry.

NIOSH has conducted site visits to several facilities around the country that are involved in the research, manufacture, or use of various types of nanomaterials including, metal and metal oxide nanoparticles, carbon nanofibers, electrospun nanofibers, quantum dots, fullerenes, and nanocomposites. As a result, NIOSH obtained valuable information that is being used to assist in developing workplace guidance documents to protect nanotechnology workers from occupational injury and illness, and has learned that:



- basic particle counting and sizing instruments can be used to identify emissions from nanomaterial processes,
- careful interpretation of the particle data is needed to differentiate between incidental (background) and process-related nanoparticles, and
- engineering controls do minimize workplace exposure to engineered nanoparticles.

Companies interested in receiving a visit by the Field Research Team are encouraged to contact NIOSH. All site visits are initiated by the respective companies and are completely voluntary. This program is fully funded by NIOSH; therefore, there is no monetary cost to the participant. Three companies who have voluntarily received site evaluations from the NIOSH Field Research Team were recently interviewed by Nanowerk, LLC for its August/September 2007 issue of Nanorisk ([www.nanorisk.org/](http://www.nanorisk.org/)). Overall, they described the collaboration as beneficial, and encouraged other companies to take advantage of NIOSH's expertise, services, instrumentation, and unbiased assessments.

For more information about occupational safety and health topics pertaining to engineered nanomaterials, including fact sheets about the Field Research effort and other nanotechnology research programs, please visit the NIOSH nanotechnology topic page at [www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/nanotech](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/nanotech). To discuss the possibility of receiving a site evaluation by the NIOSH Field Research Team, contact Charles Geraci, Ph.D., CIH at (513) 533-8339, [CGeraci@cdc.gov](mailto:CGeraci@cdc.gov) or Mark Methner, Ph.D., CIH at (513) 841-4325, [MMethner@cdc.gov](mailto:MMethner@cdc.gov).

To receive other documents or other information about occupational safety and health topics, contact NIOSH at

Telephone: 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636)

TTY: 1-888-232-6348 ■ E-mail: [cdcinfo@cdc.gov](mailto:cdcinfo@cdc.gov)

or visit the NIOSH Web site at [www.cdc.gov/niosh](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh)

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health  
4676 Columbia Parkway  
Cincinnati, OH 45226-1998