



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Office of the Chief Health and Medical Officer (OCHMO) – Occupational Health
Monthly Newsletter February 2013

◆Registration Now Open for NASA Occupational Health Meeting:

The Office of the Chief Health and Medical Officer is pleased to announce the opening of registration for the annual NASA Occupational



Health Meeting. This year's Occupational Health (OH) Meeting takes place April 16-18, 2013 at Kennedy Space Center. The theme is **"Maintaining Occupational Health Focus in Changing Times"**. Professional Development Courses for Occupational Medicine, Environmental Health and Employee Assistance will take place on Tuesday, April 16. The Plenary Sessions are scheduled on Wednesday and Thursday mornings, April 17-18. The afternoon breakout sessions are devoted to topics of specific interest to Occupational Medicine, Employee Assistance Programs and Environmental Health. A post-meeting Technical Tour of Kennedy Space Center is being planned for the morning of Friday, April 19. Please check the [OH website](#) for details on the agenda, accommodations, and continuing education as arrangements are confirmed. Federal employees please note there is a new conference code requirement for travel documents. The conference code for this meeting is **16588-13**.

◆**New Online Resource on Domestic Violence:** The National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRC DV), funded by the Department of Health and Human Services Family Violence Prevention and Services Program recently released a new interactive online course, [Domestic Violence: Understanding the Basics](#). The one hour interactive eLearning module describes the dynamics and common tactics that characterize domestic violence; provides an overview of the scope and impact on individuals and society; explores the underlying factors that allow domestic violence to exist; offers insight into the various risks and choices that survivors face; and shares solutions to the problem. The course was designed to assist advocates, allied professionals, students, and the general public in understanding the basics of this complex issue.

◆**FDA Proposes New Food Safety Rules:** In early January, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) proposed two new food safety rules that will help prevent foodborne illness. The proposed rules implement the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), an integrated reform effort that focuses on prevention of foodborne illness. The two proposed rules address the safety of foods produced domestically and imported and are available for public comment for the next 120 days. The first rule proposed would require makers of food to be sold in the United States, whether produced at a foreign- or domestic-based facility, to develop a formal plan for preventing their food products from causing foodborne illness. The rule would also require them to have plans for correcting any problems that arise. The second rule proposes enforceable safety standards for the production and harvesting of produce on farms. For more information, visit the [FDA website](#).

◆Johnson Space Center (JSC) Fitness/Nutrition/EAP VITS Series:

The JSC series is well under way and has already shown to be popular with employees from all NASA Centers. Check out the schedule for these informative and interesting presentations—they are worth taking the time to attend. <http://www.ohp.nasa.gov/disciplines/fitness/index.html>

◆**New Clinicians Webpage for Healthcare Professionals:** OSHA has launched a new webpage directed specifically to clinicians who encounter related health and safety issues during the care of patients. The purpose of the site is to provide an information resource and links to help clinicians navigate OSHA's website and provide care for workers. Topics on the webpage include

evaluating occupational exposures, OSHA requirements for recordkeeping and medical records, and setting up a safe outpatient office. Physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician's assistants and other health care professionals should benefit from the information available.



◆Department of Labor (DOL) Training for Supervisors/Managers: Federal Workers' Compensation:

Federal Workers' Compensation case management is often complex and always involves frequent participation and interaction between injury compensation specialists, injured employees, and supervisors/managers of injured employees. The Office of the Chief Health and Medical Officer has coordinated with DOL to conduct a series of sessions specifically for NASA supervisors and managers to convey the numerous aspects of claims and returning injured employees to work. If you are interested in attending these WebEx sessions and would like to receive a schedule for the presentations, send a note of interest to the Agency Federal Workers' Compensation Program Coordinator, Janine Hardin at janine.e.hardin@nasa.gov.

◆**Surveillance for Foodborne Disease Outbreaks:** The CDC regularly receives voluntary submittal reports of foodborne outbreaks from State, local, tribal, and territorial health department officials through the Foodborne Disease Outbreak Surveillance System. Findings were reported last week in the [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) of analysis on outbreaks in the United States that were reported by August 2, 2012, in which the first illness occurred during 2009–2010. During 2009–2010, a total of 1,527 foodborne disease outbreaks (675 in 2009 and 852 in 2010) were reported, resulting in 29,444 cases of illness, 1,184 hospitalizations, and 23 deaths. Among the 790 outbreaks with a single laboratory-confirmed etiologic agent, norovirus was the most commonly reported (42%) and *Salmonella* was second (30%). Among the 299 outbreaks attributed to a food composed of ingredients from one of 17 predefined, mutually exclusive food commodities, those most often implicated were beef (13%), dairy (12%), fish (12%), and poultry (11%). The commodities in the 299 outbreaks associated with the most illnesses were eggs (27% of illnesses), beef (11%), and poultry (10%).



◆NASA OH Center Review Calendar:

Michoud Assembly Facility – February 19-22, 2013
Marshall Space Flight Center – March 18-22, 2013



◆Upcoming OH VITS & Webinars:

- Laser Safety Training Course at the Kennedy Space Center – February 4-5, 2013.
- Environmental Health (EH) VITS – February 5, 2013, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. EST
- Federal Workers' Compensation Quarterly VITS - February 5, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. EST
- Buy Quiet Roadmap Status Webinar – February 12, 2013, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. EST (Option 1) or February 13, 2013, 1:00 -2:00 p.m. EST (Option 2)
- Health Promotion and Wellness VITS – March 6, 2013, 1:30-2:30 p.m. EST
- Employee Assistance Program Quarterly VITS - March 12, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. EST
- EH VITS – March 13, 2013, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. EST
- JSC Fitness/Nutrition/EAP VITS - *Develop Your Own Fitness Program* , February 14 at 1:30 pm EST

NASA OH Newsletter is published by the NASA Office of the Chief Health and Medical Officer (OCHMO)

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