

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration  
**Headquarters**  
Washington, DC 20546-0001



April 28, 2006

Reply to Attn of:

Chief Health and Medical Office

TO: Distribution

FROM: Chief Health and Medical Officer

SUBJECT: 2006 NASA Occupational Health Conference

The Office of the Chief Health and Medical Officer will hold its annual 2006 NASA Occupational Health Conference at the historic Francis Marion Hotel in Charleston, South Carolina on **July 17-21, 2006**. The theme this year is, "Occupational Health Response to Catastrophic Events: Disaster Preparedness for a Healthier NASA."

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita had, and continue to have, an unprecedented impact on many of our dedicated employees from NASA Centers and extend beyond the workplace to their families, friends, and neighbors. Those of us who were not directly affected have also been moved and influenced by their incredible experiences. In our effort to capture lessons-learned from these and other events, this Conference provides a valuable opportunity to gain new strategic insights to respond to catastrophic events in keeping with a healthier NASA. It also provides an excellent forum for multiple occupational health disciplines from NASA Centers and facilities to exchange meaningful scientific and technical data along with learning-centered management experiences. This exchange is especially important in light of the challenges resulting from devastating events such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Two simultaneous full-day Professional Development Courses will be offered on **Monday, July 17:**

Basic Disaster Life Support (BDLS)

This all-day course targets the multiple disciplines including emergency medical and health care personnel needed in the care and coordination of response in weapons of mass destruction disaster and public health emergencies. The BDLS curricula includes overview and disaster paradigm, natural and human-made disasters, traumatic and explosive events, nuclear and radiological weapon attacks, biological events, chemical events, the public health system, and psychosocial aspects of disasters. Participants will receive certification in BDLS upon completion of the course and achieving a passing score on the competency exam.

Practical Tools for Environmental Health (EH) Professionals to Prepare for their Role in Emergency Response (ER)

After giving an overview of the IS-700 National Incident Management System (NIMS) and IS-800 National Response Plan (NRP), this all-day course will focus on practical information for the EH professional related to the testing of ER plans at NASA Centers. The course will focus on the various methods (table tops, simulations, drill, etc.) that can be utilized to test emergency plans, with the pro's and con's highlighted. The course is designed to provide NASA EH professionals with practical tools to improve their Center's plan and their capability to adequately provide EH support in response to an emergency.

The Plenary Session on **Tuesday, July 18**, features the former Director of the Stennis Space Center (SSC), William Parsons, as the invited speaker. Mr. Parsons was named the Deputy Director of the Kennedy Space Center in mid-February of this year. He will discuss the series of events that took place at and around SSC "Before, During and After Hurricane Katrina."

I encourage your attendance at this year's annual Conference. Please check the NASA Occupational Health Website at [http://ohp.nasa.gov/conference\\_info/index.html](http://ohp.nasa.gov/conference_info/index.html) for all of the Conference information and online registration. Once you have registered for the Conference and other activities and you find you must cancel or modify your registration, please do so on the website. In addition to the website registration process, you must also call the Francis Marion Hotel directly to reserve your room at (843) 722-0600 or 1-877-756-2121 by **Wednesday, June 21, 2006**, and identify yourself as an attendee at the NASA Occupational Health Conference to receive the special Conference government room rate. If you have additional questions, please call Ms. Cathy Angotti of my staff, at (202) 358-1794.



Richard S. Williams, MD, FACS

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