



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Office of the Chief Health and Medical Officer – Occupational Health
Monthly Newsletter October 2011

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◆ **EHR Update:** Preparations are underway for the Medgate GX medical training at the Wallops Flight Facility (WFF). The weekly pre-implementation teleconference/WebEx meetings began September 22nd with the clinic staff. The training is scheduled for the week of October 17th. With the WFF “go live” planned for Friday October 21st, they will be the fourth NASA Health Clinic on Medgate GX.

◆ **International Medical Evacuation:** [US Air Ambulance](#) provides medical evacuation and other services for Federal employees on official overseas travel. Assistance can range from getting a referral to see a physician for a minor illness to being hospitalized and subsequently transported back to the states for a serious life-threatening condition. OCHMO recommends that Federal NASA employees (1) visit their Center's onsite medical clinic before travel; (2) access the US Air Ambulance website before and during travel to learn of all available services; and (3) contact US Air Ambulance for assistance immediately for any illness or condition that requires medical attention. US Air Ambulance will contact the NASA physician liaison who will review and evaluate the situation to ensure employee health and safety.

Please see the [Traveler's Health](#) section of the OHP website for more detailed information and to register at the [NASA-specific US Air Ambulance](#) site prior to travel.



◆ **ViTS on OH Program Review Process:** OCHMO will be hosting a ViTS in the near future to discuss the new Center OH Program Self Review Process and also OCHMO's recent transition to using SAARIS to manage Review data. In October OCHMO will be at Langley for their triennial onsite Program Review, this will be the second Center where SAARIS will be used to manage the data. More details will be forthcoming on the upcoming ViTS intended to provide an update to all NASA OH disciplines at all 14 NASA sites.

◆ **Federal Workers' Compensation - New Claims Submittal and Processing Procedures:** Beginning October 1, 2011, the [Department of Labor, Division of Federal Employees Compensation](#) (DFEC), Office of Workers' Compensation (OWCP) is centralizing case create functions. All claim forms have to be mailed or faxed to Jacksonville, Florida. Despite the Jacksonville address, this facility is separate and distinct from the Jacksonville district office. OWCP forms to be sent to Jacksonville include CA-1, CA-2, and CA-7. If a case is accidentally submitted to a district office, it will be forwarded on to the facility in Jacksonville and will not be considered "received" by OWCP until it is received in Jacksonville. There is no telephone number for the Jacksonville facility – all questions will still need to be addressed by the appropriate district offices. If you have any questions about filing a Federal Workers' Compensation claim, please contact your



Center's Federal Workers' Compensation [Case Manager](#) for assistance or [Janine Hardin](#) at 321-867-2423.

◆ **October is National Work & Family Month:** [National Work & Family Month](#) is a national education campaign led by Alliance for Work-Life Progress, an affiliate of WorldatWork, to raise awareness among employers about the value of work-life effectiveness as a business imperative. The month of October was first designated as National Work & Family Month by a Resolution 210 of the United States Senate in 2003. OPM's Worklife Wellness Staff and WorldatWork will be co-hosting a National Work and Family Month Webinar on October 20 from 1:30-3:30 Eastern. If you are interested in registering to attend, please contact worklife@opm.gov.

◆ **NIOSH Evaluation of its Cancer and REL Policies:** As Occupational Health professionals we often look to NIOSH for guidance on exposure limits (RELs) and other information in the widely disseminated [NIOSH Pocket Guide](#). NIOSH is currently reviewing its cancer (carcinogen) and related Recommended Exposure Limit (REL) policies to ensure that they reflect current scientific and risk management practices. Here is the link to the [announcement](#) from NIOSH. The comment period has been extended to November 22.



◆ **National Library of Medicine's Downloadable, Online, and Smartphone Tools for First Responders and Others:** The mission of the [National Library of Medicine](#) (NLM) is to collect, organize, preserve, and disseminate health-related information. NLM's efforts to assist first responders and others include three tools provided free to users. The tools are [WISER](#) (Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders), [REMM](#) (Radiation Emergency Medical Management), and [CHEMM](#) (Chemical Hazards Emergency Medical Management). NLM also provides [Mobile Apps and Sites](#) for a number of their online tools. WISER has been designed to assist first responders in hazardous material incidents, while REMM and CHEMM have been designed to enable first responders, first receivers, and other healthcare providers plan for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of mass-casualty incidents.



◆ **October EH ViTS Focuses on Surface Sampling for Metals:** The [October 5 EH ViTS](#) will focus on surface sampling for metals. An IH from the [United States Army Public Health Command](#), Geoffrey Braybrooke, PE, CIH, will be speaking. Surface coatings containing metals are prevalent across NASA sites and are a common IH concern during construction and demolition projects.

◆ **NASA OH Center Review Calendar:**

- October 25-28, Langley Research Center
- ◆ **Upcoming OH ViTS & Webinars:**
- EH ViTS – October 5, 11:00-12:00 EDT
- HP ViTS – October 21, 11:00-12:00 EDT

NASA OH Newsletter is published by the NASA OH Support Office
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