



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

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

[newsletter archives](#)

◆ **EHR Update:** Preparations are underway for the Medgate GX medical training at Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC). The weekly pre-implementation teleconference/WebEx meetings began November 2nd with the clinic staff. The training is scheduled for both Medical and IH the week of December 17th. Cathy Angotti Director of NASA OH plans to attend the GSFC “go live” currently set for Thursday December 15th. This will be the fifth NASA Center on Medgate GX. There are currently four Centers using Medgate and 11,000 plus clinic visit records have been entered into the EHRs!

◆ **The Annual OH Meeting Targets**

Atlanta Georgia for 2012: Annual meeting dates are not yet official, but the summertime is again being targeted. Make plans now in your training budget to attend the 2011 annual meeting.



◆ **MSL Update:** The [Mars Science Lab \(MSL\)](#) is the current NASA mission to the red planet. The MSL launched from an Atlas V541 with a Centaur second stage on Saturday, November 26. at 10:02 a.m. EST from Complex 41 on Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. The MSL is scheduled



to arrive at Mars in August of 2012. For health physicists at NASA, MSL represented a Major Radiological Source launch because of the radio-active material aboard. The main power source is a multi-mission radioisotope thermo-electric generator (MMRTG) containing a significant quantity of PU-238, approximately 4.8 kg in ceramic plutonium dioxide. The launch of MSL with its nuclear power source culminated years of accident contingency planning at KSC. Health Physicists Andy Grief and Mary Van Baalen from JSC, and Marc Martz from JPL deployed with KSC EH Specialists to augment radiological field monitoring teams. See picture at right.



◆ **FY 2012 OH Training Needs Survey:** The annual [FY 2012 NASA OH Training Needs Survey](#) is now available online. The survey covers 1) Industrial Hygiene, 2) Health Physics and 3) Occupational Medicine/Wellness. In addition to selecting topics and submitting any specific training course requests, you will be asked to select a preferred format of delivery. We encourage your participation. Deadline is Saturday, December 3.

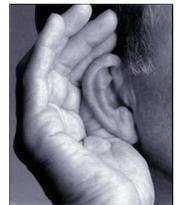


◆ **SAARIS and OH Review Update:** In an e-mail sent September 19, 2011, Guy Camomilli announced that beginning FY 2012, annual Center OH Self Reviews may be performed anytime during the fiscal year and the Safety Audits Assessments and Reviews Information System (SAARIS) will be used to input the findings and associated corrective action

plans (CAPs). It will be up to each Center to decide when it is most convenient for them to perform their annual Occupational Health self review; however, all findings must be input no later than October 30 of each year (FY 2011 is not included in this requirement). OCHMO believes this approach will allow Centers more flexibility with respect to other Center priorities, allow them to combine OH Self Reviews with other self reviews, such as VPP self audits and it will eliminate the time needed for self review report writing. OCHMO is currently in the process of inputting into SAARIS all nonconformance findings from past OH Reviews that were still open after October 1, 2011. OCHMO is also working with the NSC to schedule SAARIS training for the Center OH Self Review Points Of Contact (POCs) during the month of December or early January and quarterly throughout 2012. Centers will be notified as soon as the schedule is finalized. Training will be via webinar and should take only about one hour. If you have any questions, please direct them to Guy Camomilli at 321.867.1417 or Linda Cooper at 202-298-0434.

◆ **Tales from DC: OSHA Stakeholders Meeting on Preventing Occupational Hearing Loss:**

On November 3, OSHA held a “Conversation with Stakeholders: Preventing Hearing Loss” which was held in response to the Agency’s withdrawal of its economic feasibility interpretation concerning employers’ responsibility to provide engineering controls. To read more about the content of this meeting read the [summary](#) posted on the ASSE website.



◆ **Achievement Recognition:** OCHMO is pleased to recognize Glenn Research Center's Radiation and Laser Safety Officer, [Christopher J. Blasio, CHP, CIH](#), as NASA's newest Diplomate of [American Board of Health Physics](#). ABHP Certification is an extremely significant personal and professional accomplishment achieved only after years of experience and study in the field of Radiation Safety. Congratulations on a job well done!



◆ **Recognizing a New Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) at Johnson:** This month a Johnson Space Center (JSC) IH successfully completed the [CIH exam](#). The journey to a recognized professional certification is challenging and requires great effort and sacrifice. We congratulate *Penney Stanch* from JSC on this [noteworthy professional accomplishment](#).

◆ **NASA OH Center Review Calendar:**

- January 23 - 27, Jet Propulsion Laboratory
- ◆ **Upcoming OH ViTS & Webinars:**
 - Health Promotion ViTS – December 6, 1:30-2:30 EST
 - Value Series Web Ex – December 9, 2:00-3:15 EST
 - EAP ViTS – December 19, 2:00-3:30 EST
 - Health Physics ViTS – January 11, 11:00-12:00 EST

NASA OH Newsletter is published by the NASA OH Support Office

Send information, comments or questions to:

◆ E-mail – Bart.D.Geyer@nasa.gov ◆ Telephone – 321-867-3473

Find OH Monthly on the Internet at www.ohp.nasa.gov/newsletter/current.pdf