



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Office of the Chief Health and Medical Officer – Occupational Health
Monthly Newsletter April 2012

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◆**2011 Annual OSHA Report:** Have you ever wondered what happens to the information you send to OCHMO for the OSHA Report? Executive Order 12196 requires the Department of Labor, Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health, to annually report to the President on the status of the Federal Government's Occupational safety and health programs. After OCHMO and SARD receive the approximate 400 page input from the Centers, it gets distilled down to a 3 page executive summary and a detailed report of about 30 pages, not including the appendices. This year it was about 130 pages total. Some of the data relating to last year in the OH area include:

- NASA met all FY 2011 goals
- FWC cases increased from 2010 by 19
- Leading cause of injuries for FY 2011 were falls (33%), ergonomic injuries (18%), and slips/trips (11.9%)
- More than half of all new FWC cases involved federal employees over 50 years of age
- Zero FWC fatality claims or catastrophic accidents
- A 20% Agency-wide reduction in travel budget
- OCHMO provided 31 training events to 1000 students
- FY 2012 Goals include rolling out the Electronic Health Record System at six more Centers; meeting President's Protecting Our Workers and Assuring Reemployment (POWER) Initiative Goals and conducting OH Meeting

For more information or a copy of the 2011 report, contact OCHMO.

◆**ASTM Developing Proposed Dermal Wipe Sample Standard:**

The America Society for Testing and Materials International Workplace Air Quality Subcommittee is developing a proposed new technical standard in an attempt to better understand the risks workers face from dermal exposures. The objective is to create a consensus standard method for sampling and analyzing chemical agents from skin surfaces so that exposure data from different employees, time, locations and other factors can be compared and contrasted. For more information, go to <http://www.astm.org/sn-environmental>.

◆**Get Instant Notification of New HHE Program Reports:**

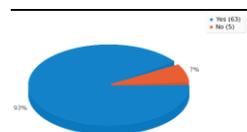
NIOSH now has a feed for the NIOSH Health Hazard Evaluation Program. Sign up at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/feed1.xml> to receive timely notification when a new HHE final report is released. It is a quick and efficient way to keep check on new HHE reports.

◆**Canine Therapists?**

Dr. Kathy Christian, Dryden's EAP clinician, has been enlisting the expertise of Ella, a black standard poodle to expand and enhance EAP services. Last year, Ella passed her test to become a Certified Therapy Dog as recognized by Therapy Dogs International and is now serving as a full-time, permanent Dryden EAP "counselor". Ella assists Dr. Kathy Christian in her sessions and provides a sense of calm and relief to stressed employees inside the office and also while taking daily walks around the Center. Ella has met with such success among the DFRC workforce, that Dr. Christian has now introduced another black standard poodle, Dexter to "job share" with Ella. He is 4 months old and already taken Ella's lead. Follow Ella and Dexter on their [blog](#).



◆**OH Newsletter Survey Results:** OCHMO wants to thank all 68 individuals who participated in the Occupational Health (OH) Newsletter survey.



Analysis of the data showed a 93% readership for the newsletter, with 87% either very satisfied or satisfied with the content. Also, 91% of you felt the OH Newsletter presented new information not found in other news

sources and effectively provides information important to the overall needs of the Agency OH professional community. Over half of you read the newsletter via the e-mail distribution list, but since many utilized both e-mail and the OH website to access the newsletter, OCHMO will continue both modes for circulating it. OCHMO will also continue with monthly publication since the majority appeared content with that frequency. No one wanted a more frequent distribution although several felt quarterly would be adequate. A couple of comments indicated the newsletter was not reaching everyone in the OH community and some readers were not aware of their ability to submit articles. OCHMO welcomes any information that Centers feel might appeal to and benefit the OH community, and requests notification if you are not currently on the newsletter distribution list but would like to be. We received some great suggestions for material readers would like to see added including profiles of specific individuals from the Centers in each issue, reviews of public EHS books, certifications/major awards in all OH disciplines, advanced notice of various OH-related professional meetings, and occupational health and wellness topics. We will consider all suggestions and do our best to encompass some aspect of them in future issues.

◆**Revisions to OSHA Hazard Communication Standard**

The much talked about changes to the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) will soon be going into effect to align it with the United Nations' Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals. The final rule was announced on March 20 by Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis stating the alignment will not only better protect workers from hazardous chemicals, but also help American businesses compete in a global economy. Given that the final rule is 858 pages long, a special issue of [OSHA QuickTakes](#) was devoted to the topic which helpfully consolidates the information. Among some of the areas discussed are the reasons to change the HCS; changes to anticipate; and what employees need to do and when. Check it out.

◆**NASA OH Center Review Calendar:**

- Stennis Space Center, April 2 – 6
- Johnson Space Center, May 21-25



◆**Upcoming OH ViTs, Webinars & Training:**

- Health Physics ViTs – April 11, 11:00-12:00 EST
- Environmental Health ViTs – May 2, 11:00-12:00 EST
- Fitness ViTs – May 22, 1:00-2:00 EST
- Federal Workers Compensation ViTs – May 29, 1:30-2:30
- JSC fitness and nutrition series ViTs: *Fad Diets--It's Time to Bust Some Myths* – April 4, 2:30-3:30
- EHRs Rollout at DFRC – April 16-20

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

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