



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH



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

◆ **Welcome Back Dr. Michaud:** The Office of the Chief Health and Medical Officer (OCHMO) is very pleased to welcome back Dr. Vince Michaud as a civil servant following his retirement from the United States Air Force. Dr. Michaud will serve as Deputy Chief Health and Medical Officer, and will resume his previous duties for all NASA clinical services in aerospace medicine and occupational health. Dr. Michaud is a highly accomplished senior aerospace medicine and occupational health physician, and will be a great asset to the OCHMO staff and NASA medicine.

◆ **EHR Update:** The Kennedy Space Center (KSC) Occupational Health Facility (OHF) and the Industrial Hygiene staffs completed their Medgate GX training in September. The OHF went live on Medgate Friday, September 14th. The OHF is the eleventh and final NASA Occupational Health (OH) Clinic to go on Medgate. The EHR Project is now in a sustainment phase. In October, the OCHMO initiated a ten part webinar series intended to provide training to Medgate Industrial Hygiene Module users across the Centers.

◆ **National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) Focus on Populations with Low Vision:** The National Institutes of Health and the National Eye Institute estimate that more than 38 million Americans over age 40 experience some form of reduced vision, with estimates that by the year 2020, more than 50 million people will experience low vision. As a result, more emphasis is being placed on this growing segment of the population. A [symposium](#) entitled "Creating Supportive Environments for Persons with Low Vision" will be held by the Low Vision Design Committee (LVDC) in Washington, D.C. on January 10, 2013 as part of "Building Innovations 2013".

◆ **ECOMP Update:** ECOMP training was conducted for NASA Center Injury Compensation Specialists on October 10-12, 2012. ECOMP will enable injured employee federal workers' compensation claims to be filed electronically with the Department of Labor. Beginning November 5, NASA will officially be online to use this system. If you have any questions, please contact your Center's [Injury Compensation Specialist](#) or the Agency Federal Workers' Compensation Coordinator (janine.e.hardin@nasa.gov).



◆ **LRC Recognized with Two Awards from the Department of Energy:** The Energy Department has announced the winners of the thirty-first annual [Federal Energy and Water Management Awards](#). These awards recognize individuals, groups, and agencies for their outstanding contributions in the areas of energy efficiency, water conservation, and the use of advanced and renewable energy technologies at federal facilities. Of the six award categories (Contracting, Exceptional Service, Individual Fiscal Year 2011 Achievements, Program, Project, and Better Buildings), Langley Research Center (LRC) received two awards in the Program and Project categories. OCHMO congratulates both teams at LRC for their commitment to energy and water management!

◆ **ARC Receives Bronze-Level Award in the Federal Electronics Challenge:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive (OFEE) recently recognized the achievements of organizations and individuals for their leadership in the [Federal Electronics Challenge](#) in fiscal year 2011. Electronic stewardship actions undertaken by these award winners have helped the Federal government improve its sustainable practices when purchasing, managing and disposing of their electronics assets. Among this year's winners was Ames Research Center (ARC). ARC was the recipient of the Bronze-Level Award in recognition for their success in reducing the environmental impacts of electronics in one life-cycle phase. Congratulations to everyone involved in this commendable achievement!

◆ **Use of Pipe Tobacco and Cigars on the Rise:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports huge jumps in use of pipe tobacco (used for roll-your-own cigarettes) and cigars that are like cigarettes. According to the report, total consumption of all smoked tobacco products (including cigarettes, roll-your-own tobacco, pipe tobacco and cigars) declined by 27.5 percent between 2000 and 2011. However, decline was minimal (0.8 percent) between 2010 and 2011. Despite the overall decline, the consumption of non-cigarette smoked tobacco products increased by 123 percent. Pipe tobacco is taxed less than cigarettes, so the CDC's Darryl Konter says people have been buying it at shops and then turning it into cheaper cigarettes. Konter says one of the reasons people use cigarette-like cigars is because they can be flavored, while the Food and Drug Administration restricts flavoring cigarettes. The study is in [CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#).

◆ **Plum Brook Reactor Facility Site Decommissioned:** Congratulations to the NASA Plum Brook Reactor Facility (PBRF) Decommissioning Project Team on reaching the final project milestone. The [Nuclear Regulatory Commission](#) has terminated the two licenses for the decommissioned PBRF reactors and has released the site for unrestricted use. PBRF became one of the primary research facilities to test materials for a national nuclear rocket program from 1961 until 1973. The reactors were placed into a "safe dry storage" mode until initial decommissioning work began in 1998. This long road to success is highlighted by an exemplary safety record. Congratulations to all involved over the years on a job well done!

◆ **New CIH Joins the SSC Team:** OCHMO would like to welcome Brian Walters, CIH, CSP to the NASA Occupational Health Community. Prior to joining Jacobs Technology at Stennis Space Center as their Certified Industrial Hygienist, Brian was a principle for 13 years with an HSE consulting company in Pensacola, FL, serving the pharmaceutical, petroleum, medical device, pulp & paper, and chemical industries. He is also an ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001 lead auditor. Brian brings over 35 years of industrial hygiene and safety experience to Jacobs. He has a B.S. in Biology from Auburn University and is board certified in industrial hygiene and safety. We are thrilled to have Brian onboard and know he will be a strong asset to the OH program at SSC.



◆ **Nail Gun Document Now Available in English and Spanish:** Nail guns are used every day on many construction jobs. They boost productivity but also cause tens of thousands of painful injuries each year. NIOSH and OSHA are asking assistance to help disseminate a guidance recently released "[Nail Gun Safety: A Guide for Contractors](#)". It is also in [Spanish](#). This publication provides the latest information on how nail gun injuries occur. It also describes actual worksite stories on nail gun incidents and offers practical advice on how to prevent nail gun injuries. Hard copies are available by calling either the OSHA publications office at 1-800-321-OSHA or visiting their website at www.osha.gov. Copies can also be obtained from NIOSH by calling 1-800-CDC-INFO or through their website <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/pubs/default.html>. Please forward news about this publication to people within your organization to help ensure the guidance is widely distributed.

◆ **Upcoming OH ViTS & Webinars:**

- Federal Workers Comp. Quarterly ViTS – November 6, 1:00-2:00 EST
- Fitness Program Quarterly ViTS – November 6, 2:30-3:30 p.m. EST
- Environmental Health ViTS – November 7, 11:00-12:00 pm EST
- Health Promotion and Wellness Quarterly ViTS – December 4, 1:30-2:30 EST
- Environmental Health ViTS – December 5, 11:00-12:00 EST
- EAP Quarterly ViTS – December 11, 2:30-3:30 EST



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