


The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)



Notable Milestones in NIOSH History

Overview

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The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is the federal agency responsible for conducting research and making recommendations for the prevention of work-related injury and illness.

Directors

- **2009 – Present:** John Howard, M.D.
- **2002 – 2008:** John Howard, M.D.
- **1994 – 2000:** Linda Rosenstock, M.D.
- **1981 – 1993:** J. Donald Millar, M.D.
- **1978 – 1981:** Anthony Robbins, M.D.
- **1975 – 1978:** John Finklea, M.D.
- **1971 – 1975:** Marcus Key, M.D.

1970

OSH Act created NIOSH

NIOSH Program Portfolio, leadership centers and offices, worker services and support programs

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1973

- NIOSH transferred to CDC from Health Service & Mental Health Administration
- Creation of [NIOSHTIC](#)

1971

- First [Criteria Document](#) on Asbestos
- First Toxic Substances List

1975

First [Current Intelligence Bulletins](#) published (chloroprene, trichloroethylene, ethylene dibromide, asbestos (during brake and clutch work), hexamethylphosphoric triamide, polychlorinated biphenyls)

1974

NIOSH/OSHA Standards Completion Program was the basis for 387 new standards, [immediately dangerous to life and health \(IDLH\)](#) values and the PocketGuide

1977

- First nine [Education and Research Centers Portfolio \(ERC\)s](#) were awarded (Harvard, U. Cincinnati, Johns Hopkins, U. Texas Houston, U. Minnesota, U. North Carolina, U. Washington Seattle, U. Illinois Chicago, & U. Arizona)
- Courts affirm authority to enter workplaces, examine medical records, and disseminate research findings NIOSH publishes [Occupational Diseases: A Guide to Their Recognition](#)

1978

[NIOSH/OSHA Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards](#) first published

1980

First State-based occupational health cooperative agreements

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1985

On the 15th anniversary of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) issued a report concluding that the Act had led to the reduction of exposures to vinyl chloride, cotton dust, and lead

1984

First meeting of the [NIOSH Board of Scientific Counselors \(BSC\)](#)

1987

- Sentinel Event Notification System for Occupational Risk [Sentinel Event Notification System for Occupational Risk \(SENSOR\)](#) program established at NIOSH
- NIOSH publishes landmark studies showing hazards of vermiculite from Libby, MT

1989

- The [Alice Hamilton Award for Excellence in Science in Occupational Safety and Health](#) was initiated
- [Adult Blood Lead Epidemiology and Surveillance \(ABLES\)](#) program and [State Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation \(FACE\)](#) program established

1991

[NIOSH issues Current Intelligence Bulletin on environmental tobacco smoke in the workplace](#)

1996

- NIOSH website launched
- [National Occupational Research Agenda \(NORA\)](#) Established
- NIOSH issues findings & recommendations for [preventing workplace homicides and assaults](#)

1986

- NIOSH releases the [Proposed National Strategies for the Prevention of Leading Work-Related Diseases and Injuries \(Top Ten Work-related Diseases and Injuries\)](#)
- NIOSH, OSHA, and EPA establish the ONE Committee to coordinate the agencies' research efforts
- Collaboration with International Labour Organization (ILO) International Programme on Chemical Safety to establish peer reviewed hazard communication cards ([International Chemical Safety Cards](#))

1990

[Centers for Agricultural Disease and Injury Research, Education, and Prevention](#) established

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1999

- NIOSH issues [recommendations for preventing job-related stress](#)
- NIOSH issues [recommendations for preventing work-related needlestick injuries](#)

1997

- [Mine safety](#) research authority is transferred to NIOSH following the elimination of the U.S. Bureau of Mines
- NIOSH issues [Engineering Control Guidelines for Hot Mix Asphalt Pavers](#) — this represents a new paradigm for conducting research by developing a partnership between labor, industry, and government
- Latex Alert issued [Preventing allergic reactions to natural rubber latex in the workplace](#)

2001

- NIOSH provides technical assistance for responder safety and health in the [World Trade Center](#) rescue and recovery
- NIOSH [en Español](#) Web site launched

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2004

[Research to Practice \(r2p\)](#) Initiative established

2003

NIOSH [eNews](#) debuts

2006

- Second Decade of NORA begins
- NIOSH partnered with SKC Inc., to commercialize two low-cost, NIOSH-designed field methods to help first responders, public health officials, and remediation workers quickly detect the presence of methamphetamine on various environmental surfaces

2005

NIOSH provides technical and humanitarian assistance after Hurricane Katrina

2007

NIOSH [Science Blog](#) debuts

2009

NIOSH publishes a literature review and critical analysis of Qualitative Risk Characterization and Management of Occupational Hazards: [Control Banding \(CB\)](#)

2010

NIOSH provides technical assistance for responder safety and health in the [Deepwater Horizon](#) containment and cleanup

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2011

[World Trade Center Health Program](#) established

Page last reviewed: March 28, 2018

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