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From the Director's Desk



Join us at the April Symposium as we launch the second decade of NORA.

NIOSH, State of West Virginia and MSHA to Host International Mining Safety and Health Meeting

Focus will be on mine equipment approval and adoption of new technologies.

Dr. Howard Will Play Role in HHS' World Trade Center Efforts

Secretary Leavitt cites need for well-coordinated programs.

Guner Gürtunca Named Director of Pittsburgh Research Laboratory

Expertise and Leadership Recognized Internationally.

Published Findings Reveal Increase Risk for Brain Cancer Death Following PCB Exposure

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NIOSH and Partners Develop Safe Patient Handling Presentation for Schools of Nursing

NIOSH seeking comments on draft through May 30, 2006.

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We in NIOSH are excited that preparations are underway to launch the second decade of the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA). The official launch will occur next month at the 2006 National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) Symposium. The three-day symposium will be held April 18-20, 2006 at the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel in Washington, D.C.

During the first decade of NORA, strategic research partnerships were developed. The second decade of NORA will build upon those partnerships while preparing for new challenges in designing research to address the 21st Century workplace. NIOSH, through feedback from numerous organizations and individuals, has shaped the second decade of NORA around eight sector research councils. In addition, a cross-sector research council will be formed to identify research partnerships across sectors. The councils will be led by partnerships with the worker, business, and academic communities.

This preliminary planning has involved close interactions with our stakeholders over the past year, including 12 town hall meetings across the U.S. that began in December 2005. To review the NORA sectors, visit the NORA Web page, <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/nora/sector.html>.

In addition to launching the next decade of occupational safety and health research for the nation, the symposium will feature:

- A commemoration of the 35th anniversary of the occupational safety and health act which established both NIOSH and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).
- The presentation of the NORA Partnership Award for Worker Health and Safety and NORA Innovative Research Award for Worker Health and Safety.
- Presentations featuring key research findings conducted during the first decade of NORA.
- Workshops centered around comments from a series of successful town hall meetings throughout the country and online submissions.
- Workshops focusing on the eight NORA sectors.

This is a historic event, and if you have not yet registered, we encourage you to do so now at http://secure.nsc.org/forms/niosh_nora/register.cfm. In the meantime, you can stay up to date with the latest information on NORA through the NORA Web site, <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/nora>. We look forward to seeing you in April.

NIOSH, State of West Virginia and MSHA to Host International Mining Safety and Health Meeting

NIOSH along with the State of West Virginia and the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) will cosponsor an international Mining Health and Safety Symposium April 20-22 at Wheeling Jesuit University in Wheeling, WV. The Symposium will focus mine equipment approval and ways to accelerate adoption of state-of-the-art technologies, both from traditional sources and by adapting technologies developed for other applications. More information is available at <http://www.nttc.edu/minesafety/default.asp>.

Dr. Howard Will Play Role in HHS' World Trade Center Efforts

NIOSH Director John Howard will play a lead role in the Department of Health and Human Services' response to ongoing concerns about health effects related to exposures from the World Trade Center (WTC) terrorist attack. In a February 27 letter answering requests from the New York Congressional delegation, Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt wrote that the coordination effort will provide "appropriate, compassionate, and timely support to those who were affected by the WTC exposures following the 9/11 attack." NIOSH has been active in this area since early 2002, administering a series of grants for screening, monitoring and treatment of World Trade Center responders.

Guner Gürtunca Named Director of Pittsburgh Research Laboratory

Guner Gürtunca was named permanent director of NIOSH's Pittsburgh Research Laboratory on February 27. Dr. Gürtunca had served as acting director of the laboratory during the previous 18 months. Dr. Gürtunca has conducted research in a range of mining safety and health topics and has published extensively. Dr. Gürtunca received his undergraduate and Master's degrees in Mining Engineering from Middle East Technical University in Turkey, and his Doctorate in Mining Engineering from the School of Mining Engineering of University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia in 1984. Prior to joining NIOSH, he was director of the CSIR Mining Technology Division (Miningtek) in South Africa.

Published Findings Reveal Increase Risk for Brain Cancer Death Following PCB Exposure

NIOSH scientists published their latest findings from research to help resolve the question of whether Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) pose an occupational risk for cancer. Despite the production of PCBs having been banned almost 30 years ago, workers who repair, maintain, or dispose of equipment containing PCBs may still be exposed occupationally. Studies to date have not resolved the question as to whether PCBs can cause work-related cancer. Following up on a 1992 study with new data, the new report confirmed earlier findings of higher-than-expected mortality from brain cancer and melanoma among workers at an Indiana capacitor manufacturing plant. The report notes limitations of the study, including lack of information about non-occupational risk factors, lifestyle choices and previous or subsequent employment. The NIOSH scientists are pursuing further research that “may provide some additional insight,” according to their report. The report, published in the January 2006 issue of the journal *Environmental Health Perspectives*, is available at <http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/members/2005/8253/8253.html>

NIOSH and Partners Develop Safe Patient Handling Presentation for Schools of Nursing

NIOSH is seeking comments from our stakeholders on a draft training presentation, “Safe Patient Handling and Movement Principles.” NIOSH, in partnership with the American Nurses Association and the Veterans Health Administration’s Patient Safety Center, have developed the presentation as a component of new training curriculum for safe patient handling at schools of nursing, but it should be of interest for any situation of patient handling. A draft version of the presentation can be viewed online or downloaded via a Zip file at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/review/public/safe-patient>. The presentation will remain available for review until May 30, 2006. After that date, NIOSH will consider all the comments submitted and make appropriate revisions to the presentation before publishing a final version. This presentation will also undergo scientific peer review. The details of the review will be reference on the NIOSH Web site in the near future.

N.Y. Inhalational Anthrax Investigation Draws on NIOSH Expertise

NIOSH scientists helped to design and conduct environmental sampling for naturally occurring anthrax spores on February 22 at the home and the work facility of a New York resident who was diagnosed and hospitalized with inhalational anthrax while on travel to Pennsylvania. The NIOSH assistance was part of a response from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), along with other federal, state, and local agencies, at the request of the New York City Department of Health (NYDOH). The NYDOH said that the infection appeared to be related to the patient's work in confined spaces with unprocessed animal hides used in making handcrafted drums. One component of the sampling strategy was the use of an innovative vacuum-collection method that was successfully adapted and used by NIOSH as part of the investigation into the 2001 anthrax attacks. More information on the CDC response to the February case involving naturally occurring spores is available at <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/anthrax/han022206.asp>. More information on the innovative method developed by NIOSH, and its use in sampling during the 2001 investigation, is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5050a1.htm>.

NIOSH Evaluating and Seeking Stakeholder Input on the NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program

NIOSH is undertaking two complementary efforts to seek data and input to guide future directions of the NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program. Last month, NIOSH initiated a national survey of U.S. fire departments focusing on the use of NIOSH recommendations and information products. NIOSH is seeking input from fire chiefs and frontline fire fighters to see how and where NIOSH reports are being used and to identify ways to increase the usefulness and impact of the fire fighter program in reducing fire fighter fatalities. A March 22 public meeting in Washington, D.C., will address the broad array of stakeholder needs and ideas. More information on the program, survey, and meeting can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire>.



NIOSH to Exhibit at the World of Asphalt Conference

At the request of the National Asphalt Pavement Association, NIOSH has been invited to exhibit at the *World of Asphalt* conference and exhibition in Orlando, FL March 14-16 (<http://www.worldofasphalt.com>). The NIOSH booth (visit us at booth number 1081) will feature NIOSH research projects on work zone safety and noise-induced hearing loss. Visitors to the booth will be provided demonstrations of blind areas around construction equipment, internal traffic control plans, and data collection methods for tracking worker risk to being struck by construction equipment operating inside work zones. Visitors will also learn about hearing loss prevention while having their hearing checked in the NIOSH Hearing Loss Simulator Unit. Visitors will also experience the sensation of hearing loss as they check out the NIOSH hearing loss simulator. NIOSH will provide similar educational services at the April 2006 International Union of Operating Engineers Health and Safety Conference in Newport Beach California.

NIOSH Announces RFA on Prevention of Airborne Infections in Occupational Settings

The NIOSH Office of Extramural Programs announces a Request for Applications (RFA) on Prevention of Airborne Infections in Occupational Setting. The application receipt date is April 18, 2006. The purpose of the announcement is to invite applications to conduct basic, applied or population research that will improve prevention of airborne infectious diseases in occupational settings. Studies with a high likelihood of affecting real-world prevention practices are especially desirable. The announcement can be found at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-OH-06-002.html>. Contact Adele Childress at AChildress@cdc.gov for additional information.

Office of
Extramural
Programs

Global Activities

India Silicosis Prevention

In January, in response to a request from the National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH), Indian Council of Medical Research, NIOSH Mining Engineer Andrew Cecala traveled to Beawar, India to provide technical assistance and information for preventing silicosis among workers (including women employees) from potential exposures to respirable silica dusts. Assistance included suggestions for cost-effective engineering control techniques, many of which were developed by NIOSH and directly applicable to these operations. He also participated in an Indo-U.S. Workshop, providing an overview of the NIOSH silica dust control research program and the various components of silicosis prevention. Information exchange through this cooperative working relationship will continue into the future to assist in reducing silicosis among the mining workforces in India and the U.S. Further information about this project is available from Andrew Cecala, ACecala@cdc.gov. Findings and recommendations from NIOSH's program of silicosis prevention research are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/silica>.

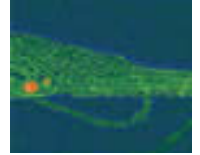
The Global Occupational Health Network: Promoting Students' and Young Workers' Health and Safety by NIOSH/CDC and other US Organizations

NIOSH discussed injury problems and contributing factors to young worker fatalities in a recent issue of the World Health Organization's (WHO) The Global Health Network Newsletter. The article "Promoting Students' and Young Workers' Health and Safety by NIOSH/CDC and other U.S. Organizations," identified ways NIOSH and other agencies are addressing this problem. Resources and information, such as NIOSH Alerts, safety checklist program for schools and promoting safe work for young workers, and outreach efforts such as the NIOSH community outreach program for adolescent working students and the Safety Competition Award Program, were among the numerous NIOSH programs highlighted. The newsletter can be found at http://www.who.int/occupational_health/publications/newsletter/Gohnet9eng.pdf. More information on young worker safety and health can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/youth>.

Nanotechnology

NIOSH Posts Nanotechnology Web Library for Use, Comment

NIOSH offers a new, Web-based Nanoparticle Information Library (NIL), <http://www2a.cdc.gov/niosh-nil>, for public use and comment. The new, interactive database responds to the needs of scientists, business leaders, and others for information on different types of nanoparticles in current use, their physical and chemical characteristics, and their occupational health and safety implications. By providing the database, NIOSH hopes to further the ability of researchers and decision-makers to address the question of whether work-related exposures to nanomaterials may have unintended health consequences. The Library is part of NIOSH's strategic program for conducting advanced research on the occupational health and safety implications of nanotechnology, providing interim guidance on occupational health practices, and stimulating new partnerships. Further information on this strategic program is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/nanotech>.



December 2006 Nanotechnology Conference

NIOSH and the University of Cincinnati will cosponsor the International Conference on Nanotechnology Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety: Research to Practice on December 3-8, 2006 in Cincinnati, Ohio. The conference is centered on the impact of nanotechnology on occupational and environmental health and safety from two perspectives: promotion and protection of individual safety and health along the life cycle of nano-based products, and the use of emerging technology in prevention, detection and treatment of occupational and environmental diseases. The deadline for receipt of abstracts for paper presentations and workshops is May 31, 2006. Abstracts for poster presentations will be accepted until June 30, 2006. For more information, visit the conference Web site at <http://www.uc.edu/noehs>.

r2p Corner

NIOSH and Occupational Health Nurses Association Partner to Advance Occupational Safety and Health Research and Outreach

On January 27, NIOSH and the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses (AAOHN) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to further research and outreach efforts for the prevention of occupational injuries and illnesses. The agreement, signed by NIOSH Director John Howard, M.D. and AAOHN President Susan Randolph, is in effect until October 2008 and can be extended. More information can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/updates/upd-02-21-06.html>.



NIOSH Collaborates for Control and Prevention of CO poisonings on Recreational Boats

Based on results of NIOSH evaluations conducted through partnerships with other federal and state agencies and other stakeholders, numerous houseboat manufacturers have pursued new interventions for preventing occupational and recreational exposures to hazardous levels of carbon monoxide (CO) from exhaust emissions on houseboats. For example, numerous houseboat manufacturers have adopted, as a standard for the construction of new boats, a "stack" design in which CO emissions are routed to a level above the deck, where they will not be breathed in. Other solutions are also being explored. The Department of Interior Web site posts NIOSH and other reports on the following link, <http://safetynet.smis.doi.gov/COhouseboats.htm>.

NIOSH Technology Provides Basis for Approved Mine System

A NIOSH-developed technology provided a basis for a warning system approved by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) on February 6, 2006, for preventing miners from being crushed or pinned by continuous mining machines. Some 29 such fatal incidents have occurred since 1984. The warning system approved by MSHA, TramGuard™, is based on technology developed by NIOSH under the HASARD research initiative. A transmitter on a continuous mining machine sends a signal to a receiver worn by a miner, prompting an alarm if the miner approaches too closely to the machine in the busy confines of a mine. The MSHA notice is available at <http://www.msha.gov/regs/complian/PIB/2006/pib06-03.asp>. More information about NIOSH's HASARD research is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining/topics/machinesafety/equipmentdsgn/hasardsystem.htm>. The mention of a trademarked product does not constitute a NIOSH commercial endorsement.

NORA

Share your ideas, time is running out!

You still have time to participate in our four remaining NORA Town Hall Meetings. Join us on:



- March 6 at Edison Community College in Piqua, Ohio for a morning multi-sector roundtable discussion followed by discussions on the manufacturing sector.
- March 13 at the Hubert H. Humphrey Building in Washington, DC for a national meeting.
- March 20 at the University of Massachusetts Lowell in Lowell, Massachusetts for a regional meeting.
- March 24 in Jackson, Mississippi for our final regional meeting.

For details on these meetings, visit the NORA Town Hall Web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/nora/townhall/default.html>.

Around NIOSH

Division of Applied Research and Technology (DART)

DART researchers are looking for facilities involved in the manufacturing or use of nanomaterials, as potential partners on studies to understand how workplace exposures to nanoparticles may occur, and to develop recommendations for sampling and controls. If your facility is interested in participating in these studies or you would like more information on the aerosol or engineering controls research, contact Kevin Dunn at KDunn@cdc.gov.

Division of Respiratory Disease Studies (DRDS)

In January 2006, a DRDS team provided technical assistance to the Zambian National Institute for Scientific and Industrial Research (NISIR) in the training of a group of occupational health care providers. The assistance will help build capacity in Zambia for monitoring respiratory health, diagnosis, and medical management of miners who work in Zambian copper mines.

Division of Safety Research (DSR)

NIOSH has recently enhanced the Web pages for the Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) program and the Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program (FFFIPP). Through a new subscription feature, readers can receive email notifications of new reports and publications for both programs. The FACE Web page, <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/face>, provides a feedback link for readers to comment on the usefulness of the FACE reports. The Fire Fighter Program page <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/>

[fire](#). now includes a series of interactive, educational safety quizzes. For more information, contact Robert Koedam, Chief, Fatality Investigations Team, at rkoedam@cdc.gov.

Division of Surveillance, Hazard Evaluations, and Field Studies (DSHEFS)

Congratulations to Marilyn Fingerhut, Ph.D., on her invitation as featured speaker at the 104th College of Saint Elizabeth Commencement Exercises on May 13, 2006, where she will also receive an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. Dr. Fingerhut has held a number of major leadership and research positions during her 24-year career at NIOSH.

Education and Information Division (EID)

In an effort to explore an innovative strategy for chemical risk management in the workplace, researchers in EID have gone back to school. With an interagency agreement and funding from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), NIOSH has partnered with the Kentucky Safety and Health Network and two universities in Kentucky for a demonstration project to introduce and evaluate a chemical risk management program building on a concept known as control banding. For more information contact T.J. Lentz at TLentz@cdc.gov. To learn more about control banding visit the NIOSH Control Banding Topic Page at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/ctrlbanding>.

Health Effects Laboratory Division (HELD)

A paper by NIOSH researchers, "Contact Pressure Distribution at Hand-Handle Interface: Role of Hand Forces and Handle Size," won the Liberty Mutual Best Paper Award for 2006. The manuscript was published in the March 2005 issue of the *International Journal of Industrial Ergonomics*. For more information on this research, contact Ren Dong at RDong@cdc.gov.

National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory (NPPTL)

Respirator experts from NPPTL supported the first meeting of a committee under the Institute of Medicine (IOM) as part of an effort by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Emergency Preparedness, with IOM assistance, to identify non-pharmaceutical measures for healthcare workers and the general public to improve pandemic influenza preparedness. At the January meeting, NPPTL respirator experts provided an overview of NIOSH respirator testing and certification requirements, including policies and provisions on respirator reuse. Further assistance will be provided at a March 6-7 public workshop.

NPPTL

Office of Compensation Analysis and Support (OCAS)

OCAS has completed more than 12,500 (62%) of the cases it has received from the Department of Labor for dose reconstructions under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act. Dose reconstructions are used as a basis for DOL determinations on claims submitted for compensation of cancers under the Act. Of these cases, 96% have been submitted to DOL for a final decision; the remaining 4% are awaiting a response from the claimant before being submitted to DOL. On average, OCAS has received 214 new cases from DOL and completed 457 dose reconstructions per month for the past six months. For more information about the dose reconstruction program or other OCAS activities, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/ocas>.

Pittsburgh Research Laboratory (PRL)

Among numerous initiatives in partnership with other agencies and stakeholders in response to the January 2006 West Virginia mine disasters, PRL scientists have 1) assisted the Mine Safety and Health

Administration with expert advice on mine explosions, mine seals and communications, 2) participated in the Symposium on the Capabilities and Availability of Wireless Communication and Tracking Systems for Underground Coal Mines held in Abingdon, VA, February 13, hosted by Virginia Tech's Virginia Center for Coal and Energy Research in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, and 3) participated in the West Virginia Coal Forum, Mine Safety Emergency Rules Forum in Charleston, WV, on February 21.

News From Our Partners

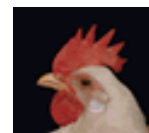
OSHA, NHTSA and NETS Issue Guidelines for Reducing Motor Vehicle Crashes

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Network of Employers for Traffic Safety (NETS) have issued new safety guidelines for employers and employees who use motor vehicles for work purposes. The motor vehicle guidance is available on the OSHA Web page, http://www.osha.gov/Publications/motor_vehicle_guide.pdf.

Communication Products

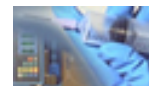
***Avian Flu: Protecting Workers from Exposure* Topic Page**

NIOSH provides information for preparedness in protecting workers from potential exposure to Avian influenza through a new Topic Page, <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/avianflu>.



***Occupational Exposure to Antineoplastic Agents* Topic Page**

A new NIOSH Topic Page, <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/antineoplastic>, provides information on the effects of occupational exposure to antineoplastic agents.



Upcoming Events

Call for Abstracts: 13th International Respiratory Protection of Healthcare Workers and Emergency Responders

Abstracts will be accepted until March 31, 2006 for the *13th International Respiratory Protection of Healthcare Workers and Emergency Responders Conference*. The conference will be held August 27-September 1, 2006 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. More information on the Call for Abstracts is available at http://www.isrp.com.au/isrpcom/callforpapers_toronto.htm or by contacting Ziqing Zhuang at ZZhuang1@cdc.gov. Additional information on the conference can be found at <http://www.isrp.com/au>.

2006 NORA Symposium: Research Makes a Difference

The *National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) Symposium 2006: Research Makes a Difference* symposium will be held on April 18-20, 2006 in Washington, D.C. Several hundred occupational safety and health researchers, stakeholders, and policymakers from the public and private sectors will convene to celebrate completion of the first decade of NORA, mark the 35th anniversary of NIOSH, and inaugurate the new plan for the future of NORA. An important aspect of this conference will be scientific presentations addressing the original 21 NORA priorities and anticipating research areas for the next ten years. For more information about the symposium, please visit the NORA Web site, <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/NORA>, or e-mail the NORA coordinator at noracoordinator@cdc.gov.

AIHce 2006 and VENT 2006

The *American Industrial Hygiene Conference and Exposition (AIHce)* and *Ventilation 2006-the 8th International Conference on Ventilation* will be held concurrently May 13-18, 2006 in Chicago, IL. NIOSH is a cosponsor of Ventilation 2006. More information on both conferences can be found at <http://www.aiha.org/Content/CE/aihce/aihce.htm>.

1st American Conference on Human Vibration

The *1st American Conference on Human Vibration* to be held June 5-7, 2006 in Morgantown, WV. The conference will provide a unique opportunity for participants to exchange information on all aspects of human responses to hand-transmitted vibration and whole-body vibration. Information on the conference can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/conferences/Vibration/>.

Word of the Month

Control banding: A risk assessment and management tool to help businesses by providing an understandable, practical approach for controlling hazardous chemical exposures at work. In control banding, a single control technology (such as general ventilation or containment) is applied to one range or band of exposures to a chemical (such as 1-10 mg/m³) that falls within a given hazard group (such as skin and eye irritants or severely irritating and corrosive materials).

[NIOSH eNews on the Web: www.cdc.gov/niosh/enews/](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/enews/)

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