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## **From the Director's Desk**

NIOSH deployed 57 people in response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. These NIOSH personnel were deployed in the CDC Emergency Operations Center based in Atlanta, Georgia; and in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas.

NIOSH personnel provided assistance in a variety of areas in the days immediately following both disasters. NIOSH Commissioned Corps Officers assisted Houston-based health officials in dealing with broad occupational and environmental health issues at shelters in the greater Houston area. Their activities included health surveillance of worker and evacuee injuries and illness, radiation safety, building ventilation, direct measurements of indoor air indicators of comfort, and the institutionalization of infection control measures, to name just a few.

NIOSH also deployed a team of eight industrial hygienists and medical officers to New Orleans from September 9-27. Two industrial hygienists from this group conducted visual assessments to identify worker exposures at a variety of work sites and provided the Army Corps of Engineers with recommendations to reduce their potential exposures while working to repair the levees.

Occupational safety and health issues are important in the hurricane disaster response, and the importance of these issues will likely increase in the months ahead. In the short-term, NIOSH is focusing on (1)

performing hazard assessments; (2) developing and disseminating concise and timely information and guidance regarding worker protection and health; and (3) establishing collaborations with our federal, private sector, and labor partners.

In addition, NIOSH has highlighted a topic page entitled, “Hurricane Response: Storm and Flood Cleanup” (<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/flood/>). NIOSH regularly updates this site with new information and guidance documents. To date, NIOSH staff have developed 12 guidance documents for this response and two have been translated into Spanish. These guidance documents will be updated on a regular basis to adapt to changing risk. A profile for rescue, recovery, and eventually, reconstruction workers is posted on the redesigned NIOSH homepage, <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/>.

### **NIOSH Posts Nanotechnology ‘Approaches’ Document, Strategic Plan, Library**

Three new documents pertaining to NIOSH research on the applications and implications of nanotechnology for occupational health and safety are posted on the NIOSH web page for comments and feedback:

“[Approaches to Nanotechnology: An Information Exchange with NIOSH](#)” reviews what is currently known about nanoparticle toxicity and control. The document serves as a request from NIOSH to occupational safety and health practitioners, researchers, product innovators and manufacturers, employers, workers, interest group members, and the general public to exchange information that will ensure that no worker suffers material impairment of safety or health as nanotechnology develops. Opportunities to provide feedback and information are available throughout the document.

“[Strategic Plan for NIOSH Nanotechnology Research: Filling the Knowledge Gaps](#)” addresses what NIOSH is doing internally and externally to lead the occupational safety and health community collaboratively in nanotechnology research. It provides a guide for building a research effort capable of responding to the challenges of this emerging technology. It represents a timely research agenda and will evolve as new information becomes available and a more thorough scientific understanding about nanotechnology develops.

“Web-Based Nano-Information Library: Concept and Invitation for Input” is intended to help occupational health professionals, industrial users, worker groups, and researchers organize and share information on nanomaterials, including their health and safety-associated properties. A prototype version of this searchable data base is under development and review and comments are being sought from a range of national and international partners who are collaborating on the format and content of the proposed library. <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/nanotech/NIL.html> .

“We are pleased to use these new web resources for engaging our stakeholders, and we look forward to comments and suggestions,” said NIOSH Director John Howard, M.D. The new documents are part of the NIOSH topic page on nanotechnology and occupational health, <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/nanotech/>.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> International Nanotechnology Symposium Highlights NIOSH, Other Research**

The *2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on Nanotechnology and Occupational Health*, Oct. 3-6 in Minneapolis, Minn., highlights new reports of projects and study findings by researchers from NIOSH and other agencies and institutions. The conference, which follows the *1<sup>st</sup> International Symposium* held last year in Buxton, U. K., provides a forum for advancing research on the occupational health implications and applications of nanotechnology. NIOSH is one of four sponsoring organizations for the symposium, joined by 10 additional organizations as co-sponsors. Topics scheduled to be addressed, in relation to NIOSH studies and NIOSH-sponsored research, include the following:

- The latest findings from intricate NIOSH laboratory studies that explore potential effects from single-walled carbon nanotubes;
- Evaluation of methods to measure particle surface area and to assess the surface properties of nanoparticles, in the context of factors associated with potential health effects;
- Results from a study of incidental nanoparticles in the automotive industry; and
- New data from a NIOSH-sponsored study by the University of Minnesota on filter collection efficiency for nanoscale particles.

More information on the international symposium appears at <http://www.cce.umn.edu/conferences/nanotechnology/>. Additional information on the NIOSH strategic program of research, including a report from the *1<sup>st</sup> International Symposium*, is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/nanotech/>. A special *eNews* wrap-up summary of the *2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium* will appear in the November issue of *eNews*.

## **World Safety Congress, Agreement, and National Safety Council Meeting**

NIOSH and the National Safety Council entered into a three-year partnership agreement during the joint *World Safety Congress and National Safety Council* meeting in September in Orlando, FL. The groups hope this partnership will advance the protection of workers; promote best practices; and encourage employers to develop and utilize safety and health management programs, effective prevention strategies, and technologies. The complete agreement can be viewed at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/r2p/pdfs/NationalSafetyCouncilMOU.pdf>. NIOSH Director John Howard, M.D. was also a key note speaker at the conference.

## **Deep South Center for Occupational Health and Safety**

The Deep South Center for Occupational Health and Safety has released its Fall 2005 and Spring 2006 class schedules listing training courses targeted for OSH professionals. The full class listing can be accessed at [http://images.main.uab.edu/isoph/DSC/DSC2005/2005\\_06DSCSchedule.pdf](http://images.main.uab.edu/isoph/DSC/DSC2005/2005_06DSCSchedule.pdf). These courses are part of the Center's Continuing Education Component that was designed to meet the educational needs of professionals working in occupational health. The Deep South Center, located at the University of Alabama at Birmingham & Auburn University, is one of 16 NIOSH Education and Research Centers in the U. S. More information on the Center is available at <http://www.uab.edu/dsc>

## NPPTL & National Academies

A standing Committee on Personal Protective Equipment for Workplace Safety and Health (COPPE) was recently established by the National Academies through the sponsorship of the NIOSH National Personal Protective Technology Lab (NPPTL). The COPPE and NIOSH's NPPTL will meet three times per year to learn about existing conditions and emerging issues related to personal protective technology, and define prospective activities (such as studies or analysis of respiratory protection, sensor systems, and other technologies and standards).

The logo for NPPTL (National Personal Protective Technology Lab) is displayed in a stylized, blue, serif font.

This committee will provide a forum for discussion of scientific and technical issues relevant to the development, certification, deployment, and use of personal protective equipment, standards, and related systems to ensure workplace safety and health. The committee will also provide liaison and oversight to ad hoc study committees requested by NIOSH and approved by the Institute of Medicine and the National Academies, and will coordinate with the National Academies' on-going review of NIOSH research programs. For more information contact Dr. Mary Ann D'Alessandro, Associate Director of Science, NPPTL (412) 386-6111 or go to <http://www4.nas.edu/webcr.nsf/5c50571a75df494485256a95007a091e/af4d7fcc36884a008525707c0063bbac?OpenDocument&Highlight=0,HSPX-H-05-90-B>.

## Respirator Certification Update

During the month of August, the NIOSH respirator branch closed a total of 36 projects. Of these, 26 respirators (non CBRN) were certified and the remaining 10 were either denied certification by NIOSH or were withdrawn by the manufacturer. More information on the certification process can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/>.

Sixteen product audits were completed on previously certified products. The products audits are conducted to ensure proper operation of equipment being used in the field.

The Certified Product Investigation Process (CPIP) program closed 7 user-generated investigations of device failure or other user-concern. User notices are posted at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/usernotices>.

## NIOSH Exhibits

*2005 Advanced Personal Protective Equipment: Challenges in Protecting First Responders Conference* on October 16-18, in Blacksburg VA. <http://www.conted.vt.edu/appe/>.

*Tenth Occupational Safety and Health Conference* on December 6-8, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Booth No. 23

*American Public Health Association Annual Meeting* on December 10-14, in Philadelphia, PA. <http://www.apha.org/meetings/>.

*International Symposium: Biomedical Aspects of Nano-Toxicology* on January 29-February 2, 2006 in Miami, FL. <http://www.pitt.edu/~nanotox/index.htm>.

*The Sixth International Conference on Occupational Stress & Health* on March 2-4, 2006, in Miami FL. <http://www.apa.org/pi/work/wsh2006.html>.

## Office of Extramural Programs

### New Integrated Occupational Surveillance Program

In September, NIOSH awarded approximately \$3 million to fund new comprehensive, integrated state-based occupational health surveillance programs. NIOSH funded 13 fundamental programs, as well as 12 expanded programs addressing asthma, silicosis, pesticides, and other areas. The fundamental program is intended to provide state agencies the resources to initiate or continue activities for a state-based surveillance program for occupational injuries, diseases, and hazards. This fundamental program will contribute to state and local prevention efforts as well as to national data concerning magnitude, trend, and distribution of occupational health conditions. Information on the program, including project descriptions provided by awardees, can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/oep/pdfs/State-Based-Surv-FY05.pdf>.



### National Tractor Safety Initiative

NIOSH awarded a grant to the High Plains Center for Agricultural Health and Safety to launch the National Tractor Safety Initiative. The Initiative was established based on the fact that in an average year, 110 American farm workers are crushed to death by tractor rollovers (<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/injury/traumaagric.html>). Tractor rollover protective structures (ROPS) have been developed; however, they have not been widely adopted by the agricultural community.

The initiative involves unprecedented collaboration between NIOSH scientists and all of the ten NIOSH-funded Agricultural Centers. The centers will use an integrated approach to complete projects in areas such as: costs of operator tractor injuries; impact of changes in ROPS standards; financial incentives for ROPS retrofitting; community-based social marketing; and communication and partners. At the end of this two-year project, NIOSH and the agricultural centers will be poised to implement the first National Tractor Safety Public Health Campaign.

## r2p Corner

### New Instrument for Prevention of Vibration Disorders

It was originally developed to advance NIOSH research on preventing pain, numbness, and other work-related conditions of the hands and arms that are associated with vibration. Now it has additional prospects in the commercial market, with the same ultimate goal of reducing impairment among people who use powered hand tools for a living.



"It" is the 3-Axis Hand-Transmitted Vibration Simulator, which was developed through collaboration between NIOSH and MB Dynamics, Cleveland, Ohio. The device is an instrument handle that reproduces the vibration from power tools. NIOSH provided the specifications, looking for a device that could reproduce vibration from many directions, or axes, as the handles of actual power tools do. A public advertisement of their request yielded a number of proposals, and after an extensive review process, the NIOSH research team settled on MB Dynamics design. MB Dynamics, working through the awarded purchase order from NIOSH, turned the specifications into a working device. NIOSH uses the device to gain better insight into the factors that link occupational exposures to vibration with given physiological outcomes. MB Dynamics plans to market a commercial version of the device at conferences to researchers in both the academic and government worlds who are studying hand-transmitted vibration exposure and to companies interested in testing the components and assemblies that may be used on cars, trucks, and airplanes. Mention of a commercial product does not represent a NIOSH endorsement of the commercial product. More information on the NIOSH research program for preventing vibration-related hand-arm vibration disorders is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/handvibra.html>.

## r2p Partnership Agreements

In September NIOSH expanded its growing list of r2p partnerships when it entered into three new Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with International partners.

- NIOSH and the Australian Environmental Health Services Pty. Ltd. will collaborate on research in the area of elemental carbon monitoring in the raw exhaust of diesel engines. This agreement is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/r2p/pdfs/AustralianEnvHlthServicesMOU.pdf>.
- NIOSH and the International Labour Organisation, The United Nations Environment Programme, and The World Health Organization will collaborate on the International Programme on Chemical Safety. This agreement is available at [http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/r2p/pdfs/IPCS\\_WHO\\_MOU.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/r2p/pdfs/IPCS_WHO_MOU.pdf).
- NIOSH and the Universita Degli Studi Di Parma will work to further understand how pulmonary exposures of cobalt and other metals relate to respiratory morbidity. This agreement is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/r2p/pdfs/UniversitaDegliStudiDiParmaMOU.pdf>.

Most recently, NIOSH entered into a partnership through 2008 with the National Safety Council (NSC). NIOSH and NSC will work cooperatively through the Partnership to provide improved evaluation research, outreach, and communication.

## NORA

### Stakeholders Share Their Comments

If you could design the future of occupational safety and health research what would it look like? In May NIOSH asked eNews readers this question and stakeholders from around the nation have responded. To date the NORA Web site has received over 150 submissions describing the top safety and health issues facing each sector, cross-sector issues and the research needed to solve them. The following chart describes the number of submissions for each category.



<i>Agriculture, Fishing and Forestry</i>	<b>18</b>
<i>Construction</i>	<b>19</b>
<i>Healthcare and Social Assistance</i>	<b>24</b>
<i>Manufacturing</i>	<b>14</b>
<i>Mining</i>	<b>10</b>
<i>Services</i>	<b>22</b>
<i>Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities</i>	<b>8</b>
<i>Wholesale and Retail Trade</i>	<b>10</b>
<i>Cross-Sector Issues</i>	<b>31</b>
<i>General Comments</i>	<b>13</b>

These comments will help create research agendas for the next decade of NORA. If you are interested in reading comments or submitting your own, please visit the NORA Web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/nora>. Stay tuned next month for a closer look at comments related to cross-sector issues.

## News From Our Partners

QuickTakes, an electronic news bulletin from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), is a great way to receive updates on important OSHA issues. QuickTakes is sent out the 1st and 15th of each month and contains a snapshot of OSHA's activities that support safety and health in the workplace, including news and announcements, background information, and other information of interest to stakeholders. Readers can receive the news memo by clicking on the QuickTakes icon on OSHA's homepage at <http://www.osha.gov> and following the subscription instructions.

## Communication Products

### Work-Related Lung Disease (WoRLD) Surveillance Report

This report is an update of the 2002 WoRLD Surveillance Report. It is the sixth in a series of NIOSH occupational respiratory disease surveillance reports. It presents summary tables and figures of occupational respiratory disease surveillance data focusing on various occupationally-relevant respiratory diseases, including pneumoconiosis, occupational asthma and other airways diseases, and several other respiratory conditions. This document is available at <http://www2a.cdc.gov/drds/worldreportdata>.

### NIOSH Publication No. 2005-147: *Injury and Asthma among Youth Less than 20 Years of Age on Minority Farm Operations in the United States, 2000. Volume I: Racial Minority National Data*

This document provides previously unavailable youth demographic, injury and asthma estimates at the national level for youth on racial minority-operated farms in the U.S. These data represent the initial step in developing research and prevention programs to reduce the burden of injury and asthma on racial minority farms in the U.S. This document is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2005-147>.

### NIOSH Publication No. 2005-137: *Dangers of Entanglement during Lobstering*

Lobster fishing is a hazardous occupation that has resulted in drowning from entanglement in trap line and being pulled overboard. The document provides several key work practices and engineering controls to (1) reduce entanglement, (2) escape entanglement, and (3) provide opportunities to reboard the vessel. This document is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/wp-solutions/2005-137/default.html>.

### New Reports Issued Under Energy Research Program

Three new reports are available from studies conducted under NIOSH's Occupational Energy Research Program. The occupational health program is conducted under an agreement with the U.S. Department of Energy. <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/2001-133.html> The reports are:

- **NIOSH Publication No. 2005-131.** *An Epidemiologic Study of Mortality and Radiation-Related Risk of Cancer Among Workers at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory, a U.S. Department of Energy Facility: NIOSH Occupational Energy Research Program Final Report.* This study is an all-cause cohort mortality study to evaluate causes and numbers of deaths among workers at the INEEL facility, and to determine if and potentially how past radiation exposures were associated with cancers among INEEL workers. The findings provide guidance for further research needed to determine conclusively if past radiation exposures were associated with a risk of cancer. This document is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2005-131/2005-131.html>.
- **NIOSH Publication No. 2005-124.** *Mortality Update from the Pantex Weapon Facility: Final Report* This report provides results from a study conducted on employees at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Pantex Plant, located near Amarillo, Texas, who were potentially exposed to components of both nuclear weapons and high explosives during assembly and disassembly of nuclear weapons in 1951. This document is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2005-124/2005-124.html>.



- **NIOSH Publication No. 2005-104.** *A Nested Case-Control Study of Leukemia and Ionizing Radiation at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.* This study analyzed external ionizing radiation and leukemia mortality among civilian employees of the PNS to help determine whether occupational exposures to radiation were associated with a risk for leukemia. This document is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2005-104/2005-104.html>.

## Topic Pages

NIOSH has added the following new topic pages:

- The Asthma and Allergens topic page was designed as a resource for individuals interested in the prevention of occupational asthma (OA). This site consists of two sections: a text primer on the prevention of OA and a set of query tables with details about the studies described in the primer. The primer contains information distilled from 94 articles by 70 authors, detailing 96 primary or secondary OA prevention activities, published from 1977-2003. It describes the current state of OA prevention work, and highlights gaps in research that need to be filled. The query tables allow a user to view the studies through several different filters. This page can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/asthma/OccAsthmaPrevention.html>.
- Indoor firing ranges are popular among law enforcement and recreational shooters because they offer protection from inclement weather conditions and can be operated around the clock under controlled environmental conditions. However, many firing range facilities lack environmental and occupational controls to protect the health of shooters and range personnel from effects of airborne lead, noise, and other potential exposures. This page provides links to information about the evaluation, measurement, and control of noise and airborne lead exposures at indoor firing ranges. The page can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/ranges>.
- NIOSH used information from incoming calls to its “800” information number to develop a list of the workplace toxic materials its customers call about most frequently. Based on this data, the following 21 new topic pages were developed:
  - Ammonia <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/ammonia/>
  - Arsenic <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/arsenic/>
  - Benzene <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/benzene/>
  - Cadmium <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/Cadmium/>
  - Chromium <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/chromium/>
  - Ethylene Oxide <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/ethyleneoxide/>
  - Fibrous Glass <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/fiberglass/>
  - Formaldehyde <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/formaldehyde/>
  - Hydrogen Sulfide <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hydrogensulfide/>
  - Manganese <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/manganese/>
  - Mercury <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/mercury/>
  - Methylene Chloride <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/methylenechloride/>
  - Methyl Ethyl Ketone <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/methylethylketone/>
  - Nitrous Oxide <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/nitrousoxide/>
  - Ozone <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/ozone/>
  - Styrene <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/styrene/>
  - Sulfur Dioxide <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/SulfurDioxide/>
  - Tetrachloroethylene <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/tetrachloro/>
  - Toluene <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/toluene/>
  - Trichloroethylene <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/trichloroethylene/>
  - Xylene <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/xylene/>

## Upcoming Events

### ***Advanced Personal Protective Equipment - Challenges in Protecting First Responders***

The NIOSH National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory (NPPTL) and the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University are sponsoring *Advanced Personal Protective Equipment - Challenges in Protecting First Responders*. The conference will be held October 16-18, 2005 at the Inn at the Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center in Blacksburg, VA.

Attendees will learn about the hazards posed by emerging threats, the application of personal protective equipment (PPE) technology to these threats, and associated challenges with selecting and interfacing different PPE items. The emphasis of the conference will be on practical issues of threat accommodation, standards, regulations, applications of best practices, manufacturing and distribution issues, PPE decision-making and purchasing, and multi-PPE integration. More information on the conference can be found at <http://www.conted.vt.edu/appe> or by contacting Tom Fisher at [TFisher@cdc.gov](mailto:TFisher@cdc.gov).

### ***Mechanisms of Action of Inhaled Fibers, Particles, and Nanoparticles in Lung and Cardiovascular Disease***

On October 25-28, 2005, NIOSH and partners will sponsor the *Mechanisms of Action of Inhaled Fibers, Particles, and Nanoparticles in Lung and Cardiovascular Disease* conference in Research Triangle Park, NC. The conference will serve as a forum for discussion of basic and applied research strategies with an emphasis on interaction between environmental exposures to particles and fibers with host factors that may lead to disease pathogenesis. More information can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/conferences/2005NanoConf/nanoconf.htm> or by contacting Vince Castranova at [VCastranova@cdc.gov](mailto:VCastranova@cdc.gov).

### ***Second Symposium on Beryllium Particulates and Their Detection***

NIOSH, the Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health, the U.S. Department of Energy, Beryllium Health & Safety Committee, Eichrom Technologies, Inc., and the Savannah River National Laboratory will convene the *2<sup>nd</sup> Symposium on Beryllium Particulates and Their Detection* on November 8-9, 2005 in Salt Lake City, UT. This symposium, held in connection with the fall meeting of the Beryllium Health and Safety Committee, will devote one day to sampling issues (air, surface, and bulk) and one day to issues with sample preparation, laboratory analysis, and portable instrumentation. The format includes oral presentations, vendor displays, panel discussions, and a poster session. More information on the symposium can be found at <http://www.rmcoeh.utah.edu/besymp>.

### ***Work, Stress and Health 2006: Making a Difference in the Workplace***

NIOSH, the American Psychological Association, the National Institute of Justice of the U.S. Department of Justice, the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research of the U.S. Department of Education, and the U.S. Department of Labor will convene the sixth international conference on occupational stress and health, *Work, Stress, and Health 2006: Making a Difference in the Workplace* in Miami, FL, March 2-4, 2006, at the Hyatt Regency Miami Hotel. The conference is designed to address the constantly changing nature of work, and the implications of these changes for the health, safety, and well-being of workers. In keeping with the conference theme of "making a difference in the workplace," there will be a particular focus on the translation of research to practice and workplace programs, policies, practices, case experiences, and other efforts to prevent stress in today's workplace. More information about the conference can be found at <http://www.apa.org/pi/work/wsh2006.html>.

## "Acronym" of the Month

**ROPS** or Rollover Protective Structure, is a cab or frame that provides a safe environment for the tractor operator in the event of a rollover.