

## **eNews Celebrates Its 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary**

Thanks to you, our readers, NIOSH eNews observes its third anniversary with this issue. We are pleased that you look to us for latest information on NIOSH. To make sure that we remain vibrant and responsive to your interests, we invite your comments and suggestions on the contents and format of eNews. We also want to know what future topics you would like addressed.

- Would you like to see any changes in eNews, and if so, what would they be?
- Are there issues or program areas of interest to you that we haven't reported on?
- Other kinds of features you would like to see?

We want to make sure that eNews continues to meet your needs, and to do that, we want to know what you think. Please send your comments and suggestions to us at [NIOSHNews@cdc.gov](mailto:NIOSHNews@cdc.gov).

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



NIOSH recognizes exemplary partners and researchers in occupational safety and health research during NORA Symposium.

### **Workers Memorial Day Issue of MMWR**

Findings and recommendations from three NIOSH studies and investigations reported.

### **NIOSH Morgantown Celebrates Its STAR Status**

Ceremony held to recognize facility's awarding of OSHA's highest ranking VPP award.

### **Interim Director for Spokane Research Laboratory Named**

Gerald Finfinger assumed role on April 17.

### **U.S. Public Health Service Announces Winners of the Engineering Literary Awards**

Three papers representing the work of NIOSH researchers and partners recognized.

### **NIOSH Researcher Recognized by Professional Organization**

Dr. Shvedova honored for role in educating and mentoring female scientists in the field of toxicology.

### **NIOSH and FDA Issue Joint Public Health Notification**

Warning on the danger of oxygen regulator fires resulting from incorrect use of seals.

### **CDC Injury Center Releases Economic Burden of Injuries**

Total lifetime costs for medically treated injuries in 2000 top \$400 billion.

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## **r2p Corner**

[Safe Lifting and Movement of Nursing Home Residents](#)

## **NORA**

[NORA Team members honored during the NORA Symposium 2006](#)

## **News From Our Partners**

[Teens Focus of New OSHA Summer Job Safety Campaign](#)

## **Communication Products**

Technology News: *Float Coal Dust Explosion Hazards*  
DHHS (NIOSH) [Publication](#) No. 2006-125

Technology News: ARMPS-HWM: *New Software for Sizing Pillars for Highwall Mining*  
DHHS (NIOSH) [Publication](#) No. 2006-128

*Trench Safety Awareness Training*  
DHHS (NIOSH) [Publication](#) 2006-133D

Health Hazard [Evaluation](#):  
Evaluation of exposure to radiofrequency (RF) electromagnetic fields at a computer and telecommunications facility.

## **Upcoming Events**

[AIHce 2006](#) and [VENT 2006](#)

[Call for Abstracts for December Nanotechnology Conference](#)

[1<sup>st</sup> American Conference on Human Vibration](#)

[13<sup>th</sup> International Respiratory Protection of Healthcare Workers and Emergency Responders](#)

## **Word of the Month**

[Green Tobacco Sickness](#)

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

During the recent National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) Symposium, NIOSH had the pleasure of recognizing exemplary partners and researchers in the field of occupational safety and health research. Their work spans a variety of occupations and safety and health issues. We at NIOSH congratulate each of them for their outstanding dedication and the contributions they have made to improving worker safety and health.

The *NIOSH Director's Award* is presented, beginning this year, for outstanding leadership and research accomplishments in the field of occupational safety and health that have a measurable impact on the practitioner environment and workplace. This year's award was presented to Dr. Charles Czeisler, Baldino Professor of Sleep Medicine and the Director, Division of Sleep Medicine at Harvard Medical School, for his work as the Principal Investigator for the NIOSH-funded study "Effects of Extended Work Hours on Intern Safety and Health." The study, which looked at how extended shifts affected first year medical interns both inside and outside the workplace, suggest these extended shifts pose serious safety risks to interns, their patients and also to other motorists when fatigued interns drive home after finishing extended shifts.

The *NORA Innovative Research Award for Worker Safety and Health* honors those who have shown creativity and innovation in their occupational safety and health research in a NORA priority area. [\*\*The Green Tobacco Sickness \(GTS\) project\*\*](#) was the 2006 award winner. GTS can affect farm workers who handle wet tobacco leaves and may lead to symptoms such as dizziness, nausea and vomiting that can lead to life-threatening dehydration. Farm workers at potential risk include the growing population of Latino workers. By engaging Latino farm workers, tobacco growers, and medical personnel in the process, the researchers created a significant body of scholarly work on GTS epidemiology and produced meaningful education materials for both farm workers and medical personnel who treat GTS.

The *NORA Partnering Award for Worker Safety and Health* honors groups who have demonstrated exemplary teamwork, innovative thinking, and strong science in their collaborative partnerships on occupational safety and health research. This award was presented to two groups. The *Slip, Trip and Fall*

*Prevention in Health Care Workers project* brought together a first-of-its-kind collaboration between private and public sector U.S. hospitals, organized labor, private and public sector safety and health researchers, and international researchers with cooperation from manufacturers of footwear, flooring, and floor wax, to research, develop and test a program that would help to prevent slip, trip and fall injuries among health care workers. A “best practices” injury prevention program was established, a layman’s document is in development, and the results of various component studies have been presented at national and international conferences.

The *NIOSH Hazardous Drug Working Group* is also a 2006 winner of the *Partnering Award for Worker Safety and Health*. This group of representatives from government, labor, pharmacy, nursing, academia, research, pharmaceutical and safety equipment manufacturing, and trade associations charged themselves to develop authoritative findings and recommendations about the potential risk of occupational health effects among health care employees exposed to hazardous drugs. This collaboration produced a NIOSH Alert summarizing known health risks and guidelines for safe handling and administration, and actions in partnership with the Food and Drug Administration and the National Institutes of Health.

To learn more about the exemplary NORA award winners, please visit the NORA Web page at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/nora/symp06/award06.html>.

### Workers Memorial Day Issue of MMWR

The April 28 issue of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)* issued in conjunction with Workers Memorial Day includes reports from NIOSH with findings and recommendations on injuries and health symptoms from New Orleans police officers and firefighters associated with response during Hurricane Katrina, on prevention of line-of-duty fatalities among firefighters, and on occupational injuries treated in emergency rooms. Also included is a NIOSH notice on the observance of Workers Memorial Day, April 28, which was established to remember those workers who died or were injured on the job. The MMWR can be accessed at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/wk/mm5516.pdf>.



### NIOSH Morgantown Celebrates Its STAR Status

On April 12, 2006, at a ceremony in NIOSH's Morgantown, W.Va., facility, NIOSH and its partners celebrated the success of the facility in being awarded the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) STAR award, OSHA’s highest ranking award under its Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP). The award of STAR status was announced last December and was reported in the January 2006 issue of NIOSH eNews.



The NIOSH Morgantown Safety Committee and Safety Office were recognized during the ceremony for their instrumental roles in the facility's exemplary safety program. Richard Soltan, the OSHA Region III Administrator, presented a plaque and special flag, and letters of congratulations from West Virginia Senator Robert Byrd, West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin, and Executive Director of the Voluntary Protection Programs Participants' Association Davis Layne were read. Other distinguished participants included NIOSH Director Dr. John Howard, Morgantown Mayor Ron Justice, CDC Office of Health and Safety Director Casey Chosewood, Interim Associate Director for Management and Operations Allison Tanner, and American Federation of Government Employees Local 3430 President Cathy Tinney-Zara.



Members of the NIOSH Morgantown Safety Committee and Safety Office, along with distinguished participants at the ceremony.

## Interim Director for Spokane Research Laboratory Named

Gerald Finfinger, Ph.D., became the Interim Director of the NIOSH Spokane Research Laboratory (SRL) effective April 17, 2006. Dr. Finfinger received his Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from the California University of Pennsylvania, Masters of Business Administration degree from the University of Pittsburgh and Doctor of Philosophy degree in Mining Engineering from West Virginia University. He began his professional career in 1974 with the Pittsburgh Research Laboratory (PRL), then a part of the U.S. Bureau of Mines, in the Methane Control and Ventilation Group. Dr. Finfinger has been active in disaster prevention and response initiatives in coal, stone, salt, trona, and oil shale mines in the U.S. and internationally, and has published extensively. Dr. Finfinger has also served in a variety of management positions including both Acting Deputy Director and Acting Director for PRL.

## U.S. Public Health Service Announces Winners of the Engineering Literary Awards

On May 1 – 4 at the Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) Professional Annual Conference in Denver, CO, three papers representing the work of NIOSH researchers and their partners, will receive USPHS Engineering Literary Awards. Sponsored by the Office of the Chief Engineer and the Engineers Professional Advisory Committee (EPAC), these awards recognize and promote the literary achievements of Civil Service employees and commissioned officers.

The award publications include:

- Engineering Management - **Chucri A. Kardous, John R. Franks, Rickie R. Davis.** NIOSH and National Hearing Conservation Association Best Practices Workshop on Impulsive Noise. *Noise Control Engineering Journal*. March-April 2005, 53(2):53-60;
- Engineering Publications – **Robert Malkin, Stephen D. Hudock, Charles Hayden, Thomas J. Lentz, Jennifer Topmiller** and **Richard W. Niemeier.** An Assessment of Occupational Safety and Health Hazards in Selected Small Businesses Manufacturing Wood Pallets – Part I. Noise and Physical Hazards. *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene*. April 2005, 2(4):D18-D21;
- Engineering Applications – **Bryan R. Beamer, Stanley Shulman, Andrew Maynard, Dena Williams,** and **Daniel Watkins.** Evaluation of Misting Controls to Reduce Respirable Silica Exposure for Brick Cutting. *Annals of Occupational Hygiene*. August 2005, 49(6):503-510.

## NIOSH Researcher Recognized by Professional Organization

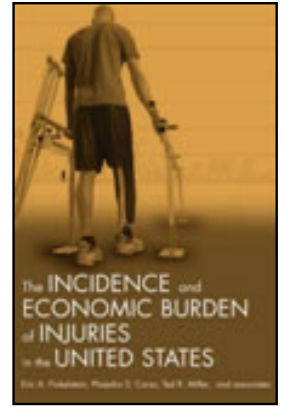
Anna Shvedova, Senior Staff Fellow in the NIOSH Health Effects Laboratory Division, was selected for the “Women in Toxicology Service Recognition Award” by the Society for Toxicology (SOT). Presented at the annual SOT conference in San Diego, CA, held March 5-9, 2006, the award is given to an individual who had been a major influence in the education, training and mentorship of women scientists in toxicology.

## NIOSH and FDA Issue Joint Public Health Notification

NIOSH and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration have published a joint Public Health Notification entitled *Oxygen Regulator Fires Resulting from Incorrect Use of CGA 870 Seals*. The publication alerts healthcare professionals and the public about a potential occupational hazard associated with the improper use of oxygen regulator gaskets. The FDA has received a dozen reports in which regulators used with oxygen cylinders have burned or exploded, in some cases injuring personnel, and it is believed that improper use of oxygen gaskets was a major factor in both the ignition and severity of the fires. The notification can be accessed on the FDA Web site, <http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/safety/042406-o2fires.pdf>.

## CDC Injury Center Releases Economic Burden of Injuries

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released *The Incidence and Economic Burden of Injuries in the United States*, which includes findings that the 50 million injuries that required medical treatment in 2000 will ultimately cost \$406 billion. These total lifetime costs include estimates of \$80.2 billion in medical care costs and \$326 billion in productivity losses. The book examines these medical expenses and productivity losses by gender, age, mechanism of injury, body region and body part injured, and severity. Additional findings and information about purchasing the book can be found at the CDC Web site, <http://www.cdc.gov/injury>.



## r2p Corner

### *Safe Lifting and Movement of Nursing Home Residents*

NIOSH has issued a new guide, *Safe Lifting and Movement of Nursing Home Residents*, DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2006-117, highlighting the benefits of a safe resident lifting program. Intended for nursing home owners, administrators, nurse managers, safety and health professionals and workers who are interested in establishing this program, the guide also presents a business case for investment in lifting equipment and training. Research conducted by NIOSH, the Veterans Health Administration, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee has shown that safe resident lifting programs incorporating mechanical lifting equipment can protect workers from injury, reduce workers' compensation costs, and improve the quality of care delivered to residents. The guide can be accessed at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2006-117>.



## NORA

### **NORA Team members honored during the NORA Symposium 2006**

The National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) Team members gathered for a special reception in their honor during the NORA Symposium 2006. NORA Coordinator Sid Soderholm told the crowd that "the Teams were living proof of the value of partnerships during the previous 10 years of occupational safety and health research." About 460 people served as Team Members during the past decade; nearly two-thirds of whom came from outside of NIOSH. Marilyn Fingerhut, the previous NORA coordinator, then recognized the 45 people who served as NORA Team Leaders. As a special salute, eNews would like to thank all of the NORA team members and the Team Leaders, who are listed below.



### NORA Team Leaders and Dates of Service

<b>Allergic and Irritant Dermatitis</b> Boris Lushniak* (1996-2004) Frank Gerberick* (1998-2006) Dino Mattorano (2005)	<b>Intervention Effectiveness Research</b> Ray Sinclair* (2001-2006) Ted Katz* (1999-2006) Linda Goldenhar* (1996-2001)
<b>Asthma &amp; COPD</b> Paul Hennenberger (2001-2006) Kay Kreiss (1996-2000)	<b>Mixed Exposures</b> Mark Hoover (2004 -2006) Frank Hearl (1996-2003)
<b>Cancer Research Methods</b> Paul Schulte* (1999-2006) Liz Ward* (1996-2006)	<b>Musculoskeletal Disorders/Low Back</b> Tom Waters (2001-2006) Lawrence Fine (1996-2000)

<b>Control Technology &amp; PPE</b> Larry Reed (1999-2006) Fredrick Kissell (1996-1998)	<b>Organization of Work</b> Steve Sauter (1996-2006) Clare Caruso (2003-2006) Naomi Swanson (2002-2006)
<b>Exposure Assessment Methods</b> Mary Lynn Woekenberg (1996-2006)	<b>Reproductive Health Research Team</b> Barbara Grajewski* (2002-2006) Melissa McDiarmid* (2002-2006) Teresa Schnorr (1996-2001)
<b>Emerging Technologies</b> George Bockosh (2002-2006) Aaron Schopper (1999-2001) Max Kiefer (1998) Ted Schoenborn (1996-1997)	<b>Risk Assessment Methods</b> David Dankovic (2004-2006) Leslie Stayner (1996-2003)
<b>Health Services Research</b> Scott Deitchman (1996-2006)	<b>Social and Economic Consequences</b> Les Boden* (1996-2006) Elyce Biddle* (1998-2006)
<b>Hearing Loss</b> John Franks (1996-2006)	<b>Special Populations</b> Sherry Baron* (1999-2006) Rosie Sokas* (2000-2003) Gwendolyn Cattledge (1996-1998)
<b>Indoor Environment</b> Jean Cox Ganser* (2002-2006) Eileen Storey* (2002-2006) Mark Mendell (1996-2001)	<b>Surveillance Research Methods</b> John Sestito (1996-2006)
<b>Infectious Disease</b> David Weisman (2001-2006) Tom Hodous (1999-2000) Bob Mullan (1996-1997)	<b>Traumatic Injury</b> Herb Linn (2005-2006) Lynn Jenkins (2003-2004) Nancy Stout (1996-2002)
<b>*co-leaders</b>	

## News From Our Partners

### Teens Focus of New OSHA Summer Job Safety Campaign

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) launched the new *Teen Summer Job Safety Campaign* during an April 6 event at Edison Academy in Alexandria, Va. The campaign is a multi-year project to increase awareness about workplace hazards, and provide possible solutions, for young workers and their parents. It will focus on industries in which young people are likely to work during their high school and college years. The first year targets the landscaping industry — “Landscaping: Plant Your Feet on Safe Ground.” Drop in articles are available on OSHA’s Web site and feature prevention techniques to avoid hazards. Video clips that demonstrate proper clothing, personal protective equipment, and correct body mechanics for landscape work also are available online. For more information, visit OSHA’s Teen Workers Web page at <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/teenworkers/index.html>.

## Communication Products

### **Technology News: *Float Coal Dust Explosion Hazards* DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2006-125**

A new technical report highlights potential explosive hazards from float coal dust in mines, and ways to reduce those risks. Float coal dust is the term for fine coal particles that remain airborne in coal mines and can be moved relatively long distances through ventilating air. To address risks from float coal dust on surfaces above the mine floor and to reduce the potential for an explosion, special attention to increase the rock dust content on these elevated surfaces is recommended. The publication can be accessed at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining/pubs/pubreference/2006-125.htm>.



### **Technology News: *ARMPS-HWM: New Software for Sizing Pillars for Highwall Mining***

#### **DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2006-128**

The NIOSH Pittsburgh Research Laboratory has developed a new computer program to assist mine planners with pillar design. To assist in meeting Mine Safety and Health Administration requirements, the Analysis of Retreat Mining Pillar Stability-Highwall Mining (ARMPS-HWM) program uses a formula to estimate the strength of long strip pillars. More information on the features of the software is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining/pubs/pubreference/2006-128.htm>. The software program can be accessed at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining/products/product146.htm>.



### **Trench Safety Awareness Training**

#### **DHHS (NIOSH) Publication 2006-133D**

The revised version of the NIOSH CD is now also available as a web-based training resource. It provides interactive material on conducting a safe trenching program. Topics include the four types of trench collapse, the frequency and cost of trench collapses, trench soil types, and common trench protective systems. The web version, along with ordering information for the CD version, can be accessed at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2006-133D>.



### **Health Hazard Evaluation: *Evaluation of exposure to radiofrequency (RF) electromagnetic fields at a computer and telecommunications facility***

**HHE**

NIOSH investigators responded to a request to assess whether employees were exposed to high radiofrequency (RF) exposures in the antenna fields at a computer and telecommunications facility, and whether exposures could cause health problems. Investigators found that RF fields and body currents were well below occupational guidelines in transmitter buildings and in the antenna field, but that spatial average electric-field strength in certain outdoor areas exceeded occupational guidelines. NIOSH investigators recommended advising employees and others of potential exposures, restricting access to certain areas, periodically measuring electric and magnetic field strengths, and providing radiation safety training for specific personnel. The full report is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/reports/pdfs/2001-0153-2994.pdf>.

## Upcoming Events

### ***AIHce 2006 and VENT 2006***

The *American Industrial Hygiene Conference and Exposition (AIHce)* and *Ventilation 2006-the 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Ventilation* will be held concurrently May 13-18, 2006 in Chicago, IL. *AIHce 2006* will feature weekend symposia on nanotechnology and infectious disease, late-breaking sessions on hurricane response and recovery, and expert panel sessions on nanotechnology, confined spaces and hexavalent chromium. Additionally, participants attending *AIHce 2006* will have access to *Ventilation 2006* at no additional cost. *Ventilation 2006* will serve as a forum for exchanging latest developments in ventilation-related emission and exposure controls. 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>.

### **Call for Abstracts for December Nanotechnology Conference**

NIOSH and the University of Cincinnati will cosponsor the International Conference on Nanotechnology Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety: Research to Practice December 3-8, 2006 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Centered on the impact of nanotechnology on occupational and environmental health and safety, abstracts for paper presentations and workshops are due by 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/>. The conference follows other successful international forums cosponsored by NIOSH in Buxton, U.K., in 2004, Minneapolis in 2006, and Miami earlier in 2006.

### ***1<sup>st</sup> American Conference on Human Vibration***

The *1<sup>st</sup> American Conference on Human Vibration* will 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/>.

### ***13<sup>th</sup> International Respiratory Protection of Healthcare Workers and Emergency Responders***

The *13<sup>th</sup> International Respiratory Protection of Healthcare Workers and Emergency Responders Conference* will be held August 27-September 1, 2006 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Topics for papers include respiratory protection for healthcare workers, emergency responders, and those in developing countries, updates on standards and regulations, emerging hazards and technologies, and fundamentals of respiratory protection. More information on the Call for Abstracts is available at [http://www.isrp.com.au/isrpcom/callforpapers\\_toronto.htm](http://www.isrp.com.au/isrpcom/callforpapers_toronto.htm) or by contacting Ziqing Zhuang at [ZZhuang1@cdc.gov](mailto:ZZhuang1@cdc.gov). Additional information on the conference can be found at <http://www.isrp.com/au>.

## Word of the Month

**Green Tobacco Sickness:** an acute nicotine poisoning caused by the dermal absorption of nicotine from mature tobacco plants, *Nicotiana tabacum*.



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