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## **Word of the Month**

[Fluorescent tracers](#)

## From the Director's Desk

On September 18, I had the pleasure of presenting the “2006 NIOSH Director’s Award for Scientific Achievement in Occupational Safety and Health” to Dr. Richard Fenske for his work in the development and application of a novel technique for assessing skin exposure to hazardous chemicals among agricultural workers. Dr. Fenske is the Director of the NIOSH-funded Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health (PNASH) Center and is the Associate Chair of the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences at the University of Washington’s School of Public Health and Community Medicine.



*Dr. Richard Fenske receiving the Director’s Award plaque from NIOSH Director John Howard, M.D.*

The technique uses [fluorescent tracers](#) to detect pesticides on the skin after a worker has finished spraying. The technique is being used as a training method to help visually demonstrate to workers and employers the importance of proper use of personal protective equipment and good hygiene. The Washington State Department of Agriculture has adapted the method for hands-on training or quick demonstrations, and Cambodia recently used the technique to educate farmers about the hazards of skin exposures to pesticides. The PNASH Center recently published pesticide safety training manuals using the fluorescent tracer method in English and Spanish.

This exemplary work provides a model for creative, science-based health communication in today’s workplace. The technique offers a powerful tool for practitioners in reducing the risk of occupational illnesses among Hispanic workers, a significant and growing segment of the agricultural workforce. Especially among the segment of that population who may not be fluent in written English or Spanish, it serves a need for meaningful visual communication.

More information about Dr. Fenske, the PNASH Center and the fluorescent tracers can be found at <http://depts.washington.edu/pnash>. The NIOSH Director’s Award is awarded annually to a NIOSH grantee to recognize outstanding scientific research achievement in the field of occupational safety and health that has made a major impact or has the potential of making a major impact on worker safety and health.

## Youth @ Work: Talking Safety

NIOSH is pleased to present *Youth @ Work: Talking Safety*, a foundation curriculum in occupational safety and health. This curriculum is the culmination of many years’ work by a consortium of partners dedicated to reducing occupational injuries and illnesses among youth. The initial curricula upon which *Youth @ Work: Talking Safety* is based included *WorkSafe!*, developed by the Labor Occupational Health Program (LOHP) at the University of California, Berkeley, and *Safe Work/Safe Workers*, developed by the Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC) in Newton, MA. Those products were produced under grants from NIOSH as well as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor; the Massachusetts Department of Industrial Accidents; the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration; and Liberty Mutual Insurance Company. *Talking Safety* is a comprehensive curriculum consisting of six modules, student handouts, overheads, a PowerPoint slide show, video, and interactive activities. It also includes references to resources for more information. The curriculum raises awareness and equips students to become partners in workplace safety and health. Major topics include raising awareness of risks for teen workers, recognizing workplace hazards, understanding hazard control options, dealing with emergencies, understanding rights and responsibilities of teen workers, and empowering students to communicate with their employer about workplace safety. The curriculum is available on the NIOSH Web site at: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/talkingsafety>. For further information, contact Carol Stephenson via [talkingsafety@cdc.gov](mailto:talkingsafety@cdc.gov).



## Sampling Strategies Manual Meeting Set for November

NIOSH is soliciting input from our stakeholders on their needs for information and guidance to be included in a revision of the "Occupational Exposure Sampling Strategies Manual" (OESSM)." The manual, <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/77-173>, is sometimes referred to as "Leidel, Busch and Lynch" or "The NIOSH Yellow Book." The meeting will be held November 8 – 9, 2007, at the Washington Court Hotel in Washington, DC. The meeting is an excellent opportunity for you to provide input on the update and help shape the future of occupational exposure assessment. There is no cost to attend but pre-registration is required. More information is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/programs/expa/oessmeeting/>.

## NIOSH Grantee Receives Award for Poster Presentation

A poster presentation from a NIOSH-funded study of worker health disparities, using data from the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), received an award for creative presentation at a June 2007 conference to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the national survey. The presentation, "The National Health Interview Survey, Health Disparities, and U.S. Workers," was made by Dr. Lora Fleming at the University of Miami and her colleagues, from a study funded by a NIOSH competitive research grant. The research found significant health disparities among U.S. workers, particularly for blue-collar, female, and certain race or ethnic work populations. For further information on the research, contact Linda Frederick at [LFrederick1@cdc.gov](mailto:LFrederick1@cdc.gov). NHIS is an annual household survey of the U.S. population, conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

## Recruitment for Health Scientist in NIOSH/OEP in Atlanta

NIOSH is recruiting Health Scientists to work in the Office of Extramural Programs (OEP) in Atlanta, GA. Duties include planning, developing and evaluating extramural programs and assuring that the programs conform with the NIOSH mission. The posting closes on October 9, 2007. The job announcement can be found on the USAJOBS Web site, <http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/getjob.asp?JobID=62534535&jbf574=HE35%2CHE39&brd=3876&AVSDM=2007%2D09%2D18+00%3A00%3A04&vw=d&sort=rv&Logo=0&caller=%2Findex%2Easp&ss=0&CustomApplicant=15510%2C15512%2C15514%2C15515%2C15516%2C15523%2C15669%2C29555%2C29556&TabNum=1&rc=3>.

## NIOSH Seeking Public Comment on Facial Measurement (Anthropometrics) Research Roadmap

NIOSH is seeking public comment on a draft action plan that responds to issues and recommendations in an April 2007 report by the Institute of Medicine (IOM). The IOM report, which represented findings from an independent review commissioned by NIOSH, addressed research at NIOSH's National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory. The research aims at developing a modern, representative data base of facial sizes and shapes that will help in the design of respirator face masks for the increasingly diverse U.S. employee population. The draft action plan, the IOM report, further details about the NIOSH research, and contact information for submitting public comments are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/review/public/111>.

## r2p Corner

### NIOSH and AIHA Renew Partnership

NIOSH and the American Industrial Hygiene Association have renewed their partnership to improve occupational safety and health conditions in the workplace. The renewal reaffirms the commitment both groups made last year to use collaborative efforts and expertise to advance the protection of workers, promote best practices, and encourage employers to develop and utilize occupational safety and health management systems and effective prevention strategies and technologies. The renewed partnership will continue through December 31, 2008. A copy of the memorandum of understanding can be viewed at <http://www.aiha.org/1documents/AIHANIOSHPartnership.pdf>.



## NORA

### Update: The sector-based National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA)

NORA is a stakeholder-driven agenda for high priority research in occupational safety and health. The sector-based NORA will consist of a strategic plan for conducting research and improving workplace practice in each of eight industrial sectors. The eight draft strategic plans are expected to be available for public comment next spring. The drafts are being prepared by NORA Sector Councils now. To learn which topics are being considered by each Council as priorities, click on the "NORA Sector Councils" link on the NORA Web site, <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/nora>, choose a Sector Council and look under "Activities." Become involved or discuss any other issues by contacting [NORACoordinator@cdc.gov](mailto:NORACoordinator@cdc.gov).



## News From Our Partners

### November Webinar Focuses on Construction Safety

NIOSH and the National Safety Council (NSC) will host a webinar titled, "Designing for Construction Safety: Preventing Injuries from Concept to Completion" on November 27, 2007. Registration is \$75 for NSC members and \$125 for non-members. The webinar will be moderated by Dr. Richard Rinehart, Senior Service Fellow in the NIOSH Education and Information Division. <http://www.nsc.org/webinars/designing.htm>.

### Mount Sinai Seeking Occupational Epidemiologist

The Department of Community and Preventive Medicine and the Institute for Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Prevention of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine seek an experienced occupational epidemiologist, M. D. or Ph.D., to lead a team undertaking epidemiologic analyses of work-related health problems. Contact Dr. Philip Landrigan at [phil.landrigan@mssm.edu](mailto:phil.landrigan@mssm.edu) to obtain additional details and to submit your CV.

## Communication Products

### The NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program

Learn more about the NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program in an updated two-page brochure. The document is available for downloading at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2007-154>.



### Lyme Disease Safety and Health Topic page

A new topic page, <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/lyme>, provides employers and workers with recommendations for protecting themselves from tick bites. Outdoor workers, particularly those located in the northeastern and north-central states, are at highest risk of exposure to infected ticks. The page outlines symptoms and diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease.



### Reducing Pesticide Exposure at Schools

A new NIOSH document, <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2007-150>, provides recommendations for reducing pesticide exposures at schools through implementation of an Integrated Pesticide Management Program (IPM). IPM is an alternative pest-control technique that manages and suppresses pests by preventing their access to food, water and shelter.



## **Three new Health Hazard Evaluation Reports are now available.**

### **Services Sector**

Evaluation of tuberculosis risks. NIOSH responded to a request from managers at a municipal fire department because 12 firefighters had tested positive for latent tuberculosis infection in the prior two years. NIOSH reviewed medical and testing records, interviewed employees and health care providers, and collected blood samples for tuberculosis testing using traditional and new test methods. NIOSH found that the department employees were at low risk for tuberculosis and that the original test results were falsely positive. NIOSH recommended careful adherence to established guidelines for tuberculosis testing, if it is to continue. The full report is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/reports/pdfs/2007-0012-3046.pdf>.

### **Manufacturing Sector**

Evaluation of mortality patterns. NIOSH responded to a union request concerning cancer and other chronic diseases among former employees of a copper smelter. Working with university-based researchers, NIOSH carried out a study of mortality patterns among these workers. Death rates for the smelter workers were lower than expected for all causes of death and from most specific cancer and non-cancer causes. The data suggested possible associations between arsenic exposure and stroke, and between cadmium exposure and bronchitis. The researchers concluded, however, that it is unlikely that arsenic exposure caused increased stroke risk or that cadmium exposure caused increased bronchitis disease risk in this group of workers. A summary report is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/reports/pdfs/2001-0088-3048.pdf>.

Evaluation of exposure to volatile organic chemicals (VOCs). NIOSH received a management request because workers at a label distribution facility were reporting eye, nose, and throat irritation, which they associated with exposure to VOCs from printing ink solvents used in a neighboring facility. NIOSH collected air samples for VOCs at both facilities and talked to workers about their health concerns. The results showed several pathways for printing ink solvent vapors to enter the label facility. All measured exposures were below occupational exposure limits, although some chemical concentrations were above odor thresholds. NIOSH recommended engineering and maintenance improvements to address the problem. The full report is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/reports/pdfs/2006-0343-3045.pdf>.

## **Upcoming Events**

**Look for Us...the NIOSH Booth will be on exhibit at the following conferences.**

- “National Safety Council, Chicago, IL, October 14 – 18, 2007. Visit us at booth #2379. <http://www.nsc.org>
- International Association of Fire Fighters, Redmond Symposium, Chicago, IL, October 21 – 25, 2007. <http://www.iaff.org>
- Pittsburgh Coal Mining Institute of America Annual Conference, Canonsburg, PA, October 25 – 26, 2007.

## **Call for Abstracts**

- “2008 ASTM Boulder Conference on Surface and Dermal Sampling,” August 4 – 8, 2008, Boulder, Colorado. Deadline is November 12, 2007. Kevin Ashley in the NIOSH Division of Applied Research and Technology is the Symposium Chair. [http://www.astm.org/cgi-bin/SoftCart.exe/filtrexx40.cgi?U+mystore+swqs8906+-P+EVENT\\_ID+1080+/usr6/htdocs/astm.org/SYMPOSIA/callforpapers.frm](http://www.astm.org/cgi-bin/SoftCart.exe/filtrexx40.cgi?U+mystore+swqs8906+-P+EVENT_ID+1080+/usr6/htdocs/astm.org/SYMPOSIA/callforpapers.frm).
- “14<sup>th</sup> International Society for Respiratory Protection,” September 14 – 18, 2008, Dublin, Ireland. Deadline is June 30, 2008. <http://www.isrp.com/dublin/index.html>.



**International Association of Fire Fighters’ “Nineteenth Symposium on the Occupational Health and Hazards of the Fire Service”**

October 21 – 25, 2007, Chicago, IL. <http://www.iaff.org/events/07redmond/homepage.asp>.

**U.S. Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security “Technology for Critical Incident Preparedness”**

November 6 – 8, 2007, San Francisco, CA. <http://www.ctc.org>.

**“International Conference on Agriculture Ergonomics in Developing Countries (AEDeC 2007)”**

November 26 – 29, 2007, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. <http://www.aedec2007.org>.

**“European NanOSH Conference – Nanotechnologies: A Critical Area in Occupational Safety and Health”**

December 3 – 7, 2007, Helsinki, Finland. NIOSH is a co-supporter of the conference. <http://www.ttl.fi/Internet/English/Information/International+meetings+and+symposia/EuroNanOsh>.

**“International Roofing Expo 2008”**

February 21 – 23, 2008, Las Vegas, NV. <http://www.theroofingexpo.com/Roofing07/public/Content.aspx?ID=6980&left=0&Nav=0>.

**“Work, Stress, and Health 2008: Health and Safe Work Through Research, Practice, and Partnerships”**

March 6 – 8, 2008, Washington, DC. <http://www.apa.org/pi/work/wsh.html>.

**“Fire Department Instructors Conference 2008”**

April 7 – 12, 2008, Indianapolis, IN. <http://fdic08.events.pennnet.com/fl//index.cfm>.

**“American Association of Occupational Health Nurses”**

April 25 – May 2, 2008, Salt Lake City, UT. <http://www.aaohn.org/education/symposium-expo/index.cfm>.

**“2008 American Industrial Hygiene Conference and Exposition”**

May 31 – June 5, 2008, Minneapolis, Minnesota. <http://www.aiha.org/Content/CE/aihce/>.

**“2008 World Safety Conference and Exposition”**

June 2 – 6, 2008, Las Vegas, NV. <http://www.nfpa.org/wsce>.

**“6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Workplace Bullying”**

June 4 – 6, 2008, Montréal, Québec, Canada. <http://www.bullyinginstitute.org/montconf.html>.

**American Society of Safety Engineers “SAFETY 2008” Professional Development Conference and Exposition**

June 9 – 12, 2008, Las Vegas, NV. <http://www.asse.org/speakerpage08>.

**“12<sup>th</sup> US/North American Mine Ventilation Symposium”**

June 11 – 18, 2008, Reno, NV. <http://www.unr.edu/ventsymp2008>.

**“International Association of Fire Chiefs Fire Rescue International 2008”**

August 14 – 16, 2008, Denver, CO. <http://www.iafc.org>.

## Word of the Month

**Fluorescent tracers** are chemicals visible under long-wave ultraviolet light. In a project recognized by the 2006 NIOSH Director's Award, such tracers are mixed with pesticides or added to the pesticide spray tank used by the worker. When the worker stands under the ultraviolet light, areas where the fluorescent tracer has deposited will appear to glow. This provides the worker with a visual understanding of the risk of skin exposure to pesticides.

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

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