

Safety & Environmental Newsletter

January 2011 Issue



Slips, Trips and Falls

Statistics show that slips, trips and falls are the second leading cause of workplace injury in most industries. These incidents frequently result in severe injuries requiring extensive and expensive recovery and lost time. Daily we encounter situations that may require our diligence to stay upright, whether it is a result of an almost slip, trip, or fall, or an actual occurrence, either can cause very serious injuries. There are several causes for slips, trips and falls, however in this article we will address one of the causes, weather.

For the last two years, Wallops Flight Facility has been hit with more severe winter weather than we have experienced in many years. Because of this we are faced with more hazards such as ice, snow and wet surfaces that contribute to slips, trips and falls.

One of the most effective ways to prevent slips, trips, and falls is being aware of your surroundings. In addition, check for slippery uneven surfaces and wear the proper footwear. Foot wear should allow you to have a firm grip on any surface and should be slip resistant. Also we need to be vigilant to signs posted, walk slowly, keep walkways and stairs free of clutter, and use railings on steps and walkways.

Statistics for Wallops Flight Facility last fiscal year (October 2009 to September 2010) indicate that out of 57 injuries reported there were 9 injuries, 16% associated with slips, trips and falls.

In addition, to provide more recent information, an employee at Marshall Space Flight Center was seriously injured and hospitalized due to a fall in an icy parking lot.

**A word of caution!! Be careful even when temperatures are above freezing.
Mud can be just as slippery as ice and slush!**



Fire Safety



It's January, the time of the year for the Wallops Fire Department to develop their schedule of annual building evacuation drills, more commonly referred to as the "Fire Drill". Why are fire drills important to the employees of Wallops and why are these drills accomplished? Fires can happen anywhere and at any time and it's important to know what to do should one occur. Planning for a fire gives you the information you need ahead of time to evacuate safely and gives the fire department an avenue to test procedures, response times and plans, should one of our WFF buildings experience a fire.

Building Facility Operations Managers at Wallops have developed Emergency Action Plans for their buildings. These plans address: different types of emergency situations; occupant response procedures; incident management responsibilities; maps and procedures for evacuation routes; assembly areas; and floor warden assignments and duties. Every employee should be familiar with their building's plan and should know what to do should the alarm sound.

Don't forget about fire evacuation plans for your own home as well. Each year there are tragedies of devastating fires destroying a family home or worse causing death. Many of the deaths in home fires are due to the lack of working smoke detectors and not having a plan. It is important, in fact it can be life saving to develop a plan and train your family on what to do should a fire occur. Practice this plan by running a fire drill several times a year.

Cold weather is here to stay for a while so think fire plan, fire drill, fire SAFETY!!

*Stay Tuned for Island Clean
up in February*

Kids Safety Poster Contest

As a means of promoting safety awareness with children, the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) sponsors an annual safety poster contest. This year, the 9th Annual ASSE Kid's "Safety-On-The-Job" poster contest will run through Monday, February 14, 2011. The contest celebrates the North American Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) Week, May 1-7, 2011 and Occupational Safety and Health Day May 4, 2011. Poster contest rules and entry forms can be obtained from www.asse.org. Christopher Helsler (x2282), Code 803.2 and an ASSE Member, will sponsor any of the contestants being submitted from WFF.

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Freecycle™ @Work

So you've heard about it...but what does it mean and what does it have to do with you??

(from the GSFC Freecycle@Work website...)

The Freecycle Network is an entirely nonprofit movement of people who are giving (and getting) stuff for free in their own towns. So, if you can do this at home, why not do something similar in the office? That's why Freecycle@Work was born. In a nutshell, it's a way for all of us here at work to find new homes for office supplies that we no longer want or use.

Of course, there are a few rules. They can be found here: <http://recycle.gsfc.nasa.gov/index.cfm?topic=home.freecycle>

SIGN ME UP, SCOTTY!

- 1. Go to the following URL:** <http://quickbase.intuit.com/freecycle> (It's a commercial site, but it has been thoroughly checked out and they're legit!)
- 2. You MUST use your '@nasa.gov' email account to sign up.** "But, why my @nasa.gov email address?" you may be asking. Here is why: The website automatically groups people by their email domain (everything after the "@" sign). Since some people work for NASA and others work for various contractors, the only way we can be grouped together is to use the @nasa.gov accounts.
- 3. You will receive an email confirmation. Click on the link in the email and then sign in to the application.**
- 4. Once you're logged in, click on the "Edit Your Profile" link and set your "Location" to WFF. Make sure to click "SAVE" to accept your changes.** This one is important! Since this could eventually be used by all of the NASA Centers, it's very important to indicate your location. Unless, of course, you really don't mind going to JPL to pick up some unwanted dry erase markers :-)
- 5. From there, feel free to post as you wish. You can "offer" items you no longer need or ask for items by posting a "wanted" ad.** Post until your heart's content. Once you get the hang of it, we're sure you'll love it as much as we do! And, feel free to tell your co-workers. Just point them to this page: <http://recycle.gsfc.nasa.gov/index.cfm?topic=home.freecycle>

Help reduce waste by more than a landfill a day. Join the Freecycle Network and be part of the largest reuse program focused on reducing landfills and helping people give and get stuff for free.



Goddard Space Flight Center held a recycling art contest this past summer. The aptly named "Can the Art" contest sought children's art work that brought together the themes of NASA and recycling, with the winning artwork to be displayed on a recycling can.

Congratulations to Abby Helsler, age 10, for getting her "Launch RECYCLABLES Here!" winning poster printed on a recycling can to be displayed here at WFF!! Look for it soon in the WFF

Cafeteria then at the Wallops Visitor Center!! Abby is the daughter of Chris Helsler in the WFF Safety Office.



NASA Headquarters Environmental Audit

On March 14 -18, 2011, Wallops Flight Facility will be audited by NASA Headquarters Environmental Functional Review (EFR) Team.

Every three years, NASA Headquarters audits WFF's compliance with air emissions, cultural resources, hazardous materials, hazardous waste, natural resources, pollution prevention, noise, pesticides, petroleum products, storage tanks, toxic substances, wastewater, water quality, energy conservation and the Environmental Management System.

What will auditors be looking for?

This is very comprehensive audit. Auditors will be looking for out-of-date chemicals in flammable storage lockers, open lids or missing labels on hazardous waste containers, rags or aerosol cans in trash cans, missing entries on logs, missing training records, etc.

Questions?????

Prior to the audit, the Environmental team will visit work areas which we expect to be involved. Anyone who has a question can call the hotline at x1718 and someone will get back to you.