

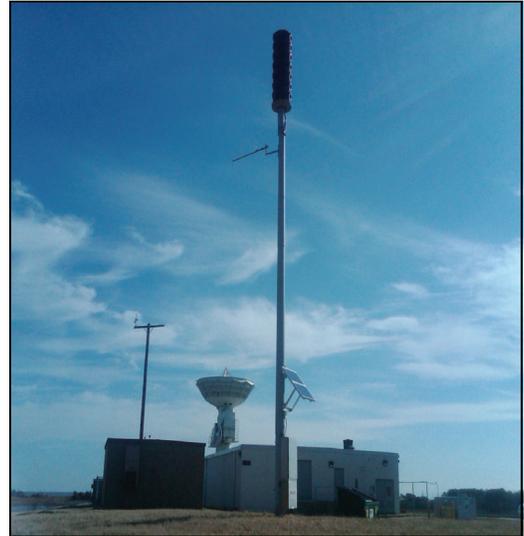
Safety & Environmental Newsletter

March 2011 Issue



New Emergency Warning System at WFF

The facility has installed a new Emergency Warning System. This system will be used to notify personnel in the event of a major weather event such as a tornado, severe thunderstorm or lightning. It consists of warning sirens and loudspeakers mounted on two poles on the Main Base, one near the Visitor Center, one on the Mainland, and three on the island. This new system also provides the capability of manual paging for real-time instructions from Fire Station #1 or the Emergency Operations Center. In the next few weeks the system will be tested and procedures put in place. It is scheduled to be fully operational by May 1st. Please pay attention to the testing and the information that will be distributed in the coming weeks.



Eye Safety Month!

Each year more than one million people suffer from eye injuries in the United States. A simple prevention of wearing appropriate safety eyewear could prevent ninety percent of these injuries. Goggles, glasses, and/or face shields should meet the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z87.1 safety standard. Protect your eyes from flying fragments, fumes, dust particles, sparks and splashing chemicals by wearing protective eyewear. Think about the work you will be doing and choose the correct protective eyewear for the job.

What Have You Done for Safety Lately??

Highlights from Code 240, Madison P. Townley, Chief Protective Services Division

Protective Services has the responsibility to provide a safe and secure work environment for all NASA employees, contractors, tenants, and visitors. Our Uniform Services Officers continually work to detect and respond to any unsafe conditions at all our locations. Our partnership with the Safety office and all those working on the Facility allow for open communication and a timely exchange of critical information. All Uniform Officers receive sixty hours of combined safety training and eighty hours of position specific safety related training throughout the year. The Protective Services operations are designed for employee safety and protection. In today's ever changing climate we strive to provide the most professional and highly trained Uniform Security force to serve all those that work and visit our Facility.

GSFC Safety Culture Survey Coming!!

April 18—May 6



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Still haven't found what you're looking for?



Guess who's been spotted on Wallops Island...?



Piping Plover!!



Then visit the Environmental Office website:
<http://sites.wff.nasa.gov/code250>

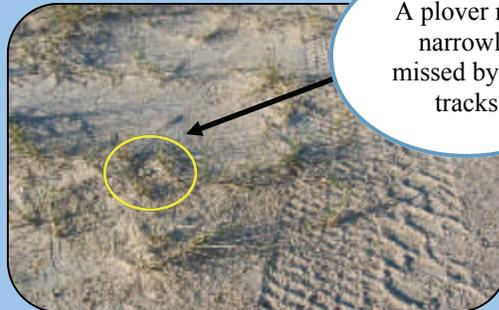
Here you can find:

- Detailed descriptions of the services we have to offer.
- Published documents, like Environmental Assessments or Water Notices.
- Forms you may need (e.g. SAA inspection forms, oil storage area inspection record).
- More information on training.
- Archived editions of Safety & Environmental Newsletters-because we know you love them!

**AND LOTS MORE...
SO stop by soon!**

Each year, in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, WFF closes portions of Wallops Island to recreational use to help protect nesting piping plovers, designated as a federally threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Piping plovers begin to arrive at Wallops Island in mid to late March (and have already been spotted here this year) and leave by early fall. Two areas on Wallops Island are designated piping plover nesting areas. The first area, on the northern end of Wallops Island, abuts the recreational use beach, separated by a cable barrier and signs. Vehicle and pedestrian access north of the cable is prohibited unless expressly authorized by the Environmental Office. This area closes on March 15 and reopens September 1. The second area is on the southern portion of Wallops Island and extends from Camera Stand Z-100 south to the Assawoman Island property line and is closed year round. Again, authorization from the Environmental Office is required to access this area. The Environmental Office will monitor the Wallops beaches regularly for nesting plovers and may open portions of the nesting area to recreational use, or conversely, close portions of the Recreational Beach as circumstances warrant.

If piping plovers should happen to nest on the recreational beach, a wire enclosure will be placed around the nest and warning signs will be placed. Please be vigilant of the piping plover this time of year. For those of you driving on the Recreational Beach please avoid the soft sand and drive along the intertidal zone only. Piping plover and their eggs are very difficult to see and they can easily blend in with the sandy background.



A plover nest narrowly missed by tire tracks



Plovers love to walk in and near tire tracks

...HARP SEALS...

A deceased harp seal was found on the north end of Wallops Beach this month. The seal was transferred to the Virginia Aquarium Stranding Center for investigation. The Wallops Environmental Office is part of the Virginia Marine Stranding Network. The following week a live seal was spotted on the beach. There have been 5 harp seals in the Chincoteague region all winter. An estimated 70 harp seals were counted on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel this winter during a survey. Normally, harp seals live in upper Canada where there has been a strange die-off



recently. It is not currently known why the seals are this far south away from their normal environment or what "sealed" our visitor's fate.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The NASA Headquarters Environmental Office has announced that the Environmental Functional Review (EFR) for Wallops Flight Facility has been postponed until the Fall. Thank you for your understanding and preparation for this event.

**AWARENESS IS GOOD
ACTION IS BETTER...ACT NOW!**

Earth Day is April 22, 2011. Stay tuned to next month's newsletter to find out how the Environmental Office will be celebrating!