

# Safety & Environmental Newsletter

July 2011 Issue



## 11 Seconds

Each work day we all have something in common, we leave work and head for home. For many of us it means driving through the security gate on the Main Base, a section of road we all travel. This small section of road that passes the security gate has become a point of interest lately due to an excessive number of us driving past the guard house at a speed much higher than the posted speed limit of 15 MPH. In fact, a study performed in May of this year indicated that 90% of us were driving at speeds over the posted 15 MPH limit.

Driving at 15 MPH is slow when compared to our normal driving speed, it seems like we are walking. However, there is a reason for the slow speed in that section of road. We have co-workers located on that section of road, and their work station is very close to our vehicles. In fact, we pass within 24 to 36 inches of their work station each day with our cars and SUVs. Imagine sitting at your desk in your office and have people drive by three feet or less at 30 MPH all day long? That might be a bit unsettling to say the least. Couple that movement with the knowledge that some drivers are distracted; thinking about the evening events or the events of the day and it becomes a situation that could result in a very dangerous workplace.

The 15 MPH speed limit is effective for about 500 feet. The time it takes to drive 500 feet at 15 MPH is 22 seconds. If we drive past the gate house at 30 MPH, we can cover the same distance in 11 seconds; this cuts 11 seconds off our drive home, only 11 seconds. How many minutes do we spend at stop signs, stop lights, stopping for gas or running errands on the way home? Much more than 11 seconds.



We need to provide our co-workers a safe work environment. It would take much longer than 11 seconds to get over injuring someone. So think 11 seconds, just 11 seconds is all it takes to make a safer workplace. Please remember to Slow Down.

## **HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS**

### **Are you prepared for the next Hurricane??**

As August approaches and the dog days of summer continue to click on, the peak time for the Atlantic Hurricane season begins to take shape. As many of you are aware, the Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1<sup>st</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup> each year with August and September being the time of year that Eastern Shore residents should be most prepared. Preparedness is the key for any weather related event and knowing what you will do ahead of time just makes you that much more ahead of the game. Take the necessary steps to protect yourself, your family, property and pets.



Every person who lives on the Eastern Shore should have and maintain a preparedness plan and emergency supply kit. Your emergency supply kit should include items such as flashlights, extra batteries, a weather radio and enough food and water to last you and your family for at least three days. Your preparedness plan should answer questions such as: what will I do with my pets if I have to evacuate and how will I ensure they are safe; where will I store my boat; how will I protect my home and where will I go if the call for an evacuation is issued? All roads lead north during an evacuation from the Delmarva Peninsula and having a plan of evacuation makes life much less stressful when the call to evacuate is made.

To develop emergency preparedness plans, NASA and the Federal Emergency Management Agency have made it simple. Just visit the [Ready.Gov](http://www.ready.gov) website or the [NASA Emergency Preparedness](http://www.nasa.gov/centers/hq/emergency/personalPreparedness/index.html) website where you will find a step by step process for making such a plan for your family.

The following websites can also help you in your preparedness plans so that you can ensure that you and your family are prepared for the remainder of the 2011 hurricane season:

**Wallops Emergency Operations Center:** <http://sites.wff.nasa.gov/code803/eocmain.html>

**NASA Emergency Preparedness:** <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/hq/emergency/personalPreparedness/index.html>

**National Hurricane Center:** <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

**Virginia Department of Emergency Management:** <http://www.vaemergency.com/>

**Got a Safety Question?  
Open any browser,  
type the word Safety  
into the URL box, and  
hit enter.**

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## Consumer Confidence Report: Our H<sub>2</sub>O is Good to GO!



### DECODING YOUR DRINKING WATER REPORT

Contributors: interns Amanda Barrett and Hannah Silbert, Owen Hooks, and Monica Borowicz

NASA Wallops Flight Facility and Code 250 are proud to report, after reviewing and distributing the CY 2010 Consumer Confidence Report on Drinking Water, that our water quality is safe. The water coming out of your building's kitchen sink or water fountain has not only been treated in our on-site chlorination facilities, but also passed through an additional filter before filling up your cup. Thanks to these measures, the water you drink is of the same quality as bottled water, while also being far more environmentally friendly--no plastic to dispose of!

Our drinking water at WFF comes from five groundwater wells located on the Main Base and two groundwater wells on Wallops Mainland. After being pumped from underground confined aquifers, the water is treated with chlorine to eliminate possible microbial contaminants, and then distributed to the individual buildings. Each kitchen sink and water fountain in a building is equipped with activated carbon filters which efficiently remove contaminants. WFF waterworks has also been adding small amounts of zinc-orthophosphate to the water supply, which coats the inside of distribution pipes with a protective lining that minimizes leaching of lead and copper into drinking water.

The Environmental Protection Agency and the Virginia Department of Health water quality tests include: copper, lead, haloacetic acids, and total trihalomethanes (TTHM; compounds that form due to the reaction of chlorine and organic material in the pipes). WFF passed most of these tests by a substantial margin, with the exception of the test for TTHM. These compounds were present at slightly elevated amounts in some buildings. However, TTHM dissipate rapidly into the air from open containers and therefore are not a significant concern. These compounds are trapped by the in-line carbon filters. The resultant filtered water meets the quality standards required for drinking water.

Thanks to the measures being implemented by WFF water system operators and the F-160 Analytical Lab, you can feel certain that the water you use to make that next pot of coffee, or package of easy-mac, is clean, safe, and eco-friendly. Drink up!

For more details and a copy of the complete report, please visit the Code 250 website:

[http://sites.wff.nasa.gov/code250/documents.html#drinking\\_water\\_quality](http://sites.wff.nasa.gov/code250/documents.html#drinking_water_quality)



## Earth Day Pledge Reminder!!

If you forgot your pledge just check out the cafeteria bulletin board!



Ride my bike to meetings on nice days-- Giovanni Rosanova

More insulation in my attic-- Steve Annis

Recycle cans & bottles-- Rick Raymond

Lower hot water heater temperature-- Harold White

Turn off lights-- Michelle Hastings

Wash fruits & vegetable in pot of water-- Tom Moskios

Install a rain garden-- Cindy Steele