

# Safety & Environmental Newsletter

November 2011 Issue



## Electrical History and Arc Flash



Prior to 1982 it was assumed that electric shock was the major risk associated with live electrical work. In 1982 Dr. Ralph Lee first identified arc flash in a paper titled "The Other Electrical Hazard: Electric Arc Blast Burns". According to this paper as many as 80% of electrical injuries resulted from arc flash rather than from shock.

Here at Wallops Flight Facility we care for the safety of our employees and visitors. Currently there is a project in place to address the deficiencies in Arc Flash signage throughout the Main Base and the Island. These projects involve placement of new Arc Flash Signage on the Island which is determined on the basis of medium and high voltage equipment (480 to 600 Volts, and 600 and up respectively). On the Main Base signage is being posted on a building-by-building basis.

Another effort to render protection for employees who work in areas where electrical shock or arc flash may occur is to provide the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). This solution utilizes a National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) table which identifies PPE for all possible tasks. In addition, this type of PPE allows authorized employees to work safely around equipment with potential for arc flash or arc blast hazardous energy. A safe distance from equipment with potential for arc flash or arc blast hazardous energy with the cover closed is 4 feet. (NFPA 70E article 130.3(A))

### Personal Protective Equipment and How it Can Save Your Life

There are too many accidents that happen every year as a result of the absence or lack of Personal Protective Equipment. This equipment is designed to guard against any risk present in the workplace, from molten metal and falling debris, to electric shock. There are some accidents that occur not because of the lack or absence of PPE, but because an employee may refuse to wear it. Some PPE commonly used in the workplace are: Hard Hats, Eye and Face Protection, Respiratory Protection, Hand Protection, Safe Foot wear, and Hearing Protection.

#### Safety Quote:

**“Tomorrow - your reward for working safely today.”**

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

# Safety & Environmental Newsletter

November 2011 Issue



## Make Everyday America Recycles Day!



## Wallops Environmental Management System FY 2012 High Priorities

Recycling at home and work everyday is the most important way to celebrate America Recycles Day. Recycling saves land-fill space, raw materials, and energy. In fact, each ton of mixed paper that is recycled can save the energy equivalent of 185 gallons of gasoline, while one ton of recycled aluminum can save 1,665 gallons of gasoline. Executive Order 13514 requires Wallops to reduce solid waste by 50 percent by 2015. Please help by placing recycleables in the single stream recycling container instead of the trash can.



America Recycles Day at the cafeteria, November 15, 2011

After reviewing the 2011 High Priority accomplishments and the projected environmental impacts of fiscal year 2012 planned operations and projects, WFF senior management approved Wallops Environmental Management System High Priorities on October 11, 2011. The 2012 High Priorities are:

- ◆ Water Quality
- ◆ Environmental Planning
- ◆ Protected Areas and Protected Species
- ◆ Energy Management/Sustainability
- ◆ Site Restoration

Everyone at WFF plays an important role in the Environmental Management System. By considering the environment as you do your job and striving to prevent pollution, we are protecting Wallops as we would protect our own backyard.

### Enjoy a Walk in the Woods this Fall

Tree identification can be a fun fall outdoor activity. Start with the key on the right, then try <http://dendro.cnre.vt.edu/forsite/key/intro.htm>



### Noticed this?



Aging underground storage tanks were recently excavated from the D-37 Aviation Fuel Tank Farm, removing a potential source of environmental contamination.

### Or this?

