

# Safety & Environmental Newsletter

March 2012



## SAFETY & GOOD HOUSEKEEPING



**Office In Need of Housekeeping**

Good housekeeping is one of the most convincing ways to identify a safe workplace. Good housekeeping is a mind set that impels us to keep our surroundings clean, safe, and orderly all of the time. It promotes safety, health, production and employee morale.

Some ways of achieving good housekeeping is keeping work areas and aisles clear of clutter which helps to eliminate tripping hazards. Cleaning up spills and taking care of leaks immediately prevents slipping injuries. Keeping storage areas clean and orderly reduces the chance of fire as well as reduces slips, trips, and falls. Other housekeeping practices involves keeping tools and equipment clean and orderly; bundling hose, cables and wires when not in use; and being cautious when cabinet drawers are open to avoid injury.

Keep in mind that good housekeeping is everyone's responsibility. It saves space, time, and materials, and above all aids in preventing accidents and injuries.

**Did You Remember** to change your Smoke Alarm and Carbon Monoxide Alarm with the switch to Daylight Savings Time??

### Smoke Alarm Facts

Almost all households in the U.S. have at least one smoke alarm, yet in 2005-2009, smoke alarms were present in less than three-quarters (72%) of all reported home fires and operated in half (51%) of the reported home fires. ("Homes" includes one- and two-family homes, apartments, and manufactured housing.) More than one-third (38%) of all home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms, while one-quarter (24%) resulted from fires in homes in which smoke alarms were present but did not operate. The death rate per 100 reported fires was twice as high in homes without a working smoke alarm as it was in home fires with this protection. Hardwired smoke alarms are more reliable than those powered solely by batteries.

These estimates are based on data from the U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA's) National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) and the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA's) annual fire department experience survey.

### Executive Safety & Health Council Meetings

Held 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month.

Where: Bldg. F-6, Room 201

Time: 9:00

### Employee Safety Council Meetings

Held 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month.

Where: Bldg. E-109, Room 107

Time: 1:00

### Contractor Safety Council Meetings

Held 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month.

Where: Bldg. E-109, Room 107

Time: 10:00

### **Got a Safety Question?**

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



## Upcoming Events

## Erosion and Sediment Control

### Thursday, March 22, 2012, Green Purchasing Training

9:00 - 10:00 am

Building E-104 room 310



Learn more about federal requirements to purchase recycled content, biobased, and energy efficient products.

### Tuesday, April 10, 2012, and Thursday April 12, Hazardous Waste (HW) and Integrated Contingency Plan (ICP)

Combined Annual Refresher

9:00 - 11:00 am and 1:00-3:00

pm Building E-104

Chincoteague room



### Wednesday, April 11, 2012, Integrated Contingency Plan

Annual Refresher 10:00 -

11:00 am and 1:00-2:00 pm

Building E-104 Chincoteague  
room

The HW refresher is required for all who handle HW. The ICP refresher is required for all personnel who handle hazardous materials, hazardous waste, or petroleum products.

To register for a class contact Marianne Simko at x2127.



**April 26, 2012  
Earth Day  
Picnic Pavillion**

### What is Sediment and Erosion Control?

Sediment and Erosion Control uses measures designed to ensure that a land-disturbing activity, such as construction, prevents sediments from leaving the site and entering into the water or onto the land. Sediment and Erosion Control measures are required when land-disturbing activities equal or exceed 10,000 square feet in area.

### Why is Sediment and Erosion Control Important?



Soil erosion and sedimentation are major causes of pollution in rivers, streams, and bays. Sediment prevents sunlight from reaching aquatic plants, adds excessive nutrients and toxics to our waterways, and reduces the flood control capacity of rivers, streams and bays.

### What Measures Prevent Sediment From Entering Waterways?

Sediment must be contained on the land-disturbed site. A Sediment and Erosion Control plan must be developed which meets the Commonwealth of Virginia Standards. A pamphlet describing those measures can be found at

[http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/stormwater\\_management/documents/MSPamphlet.PDF](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/stormwater_management/documents/MSPamphlet.PDF)

### What is One Common Practice at WFF?

Silt fencing is one common practice which must be installed before land-disturbance begins. A silt fence should be installed along the perimeter of the site and trenched at least 4 inches into the ground. Stakes should be no more than 6 feet apart. The silt fence should be inspected weekly, immediately after each rain event, and daily during prolonged rain. Silt fences must be cleaned out or replaced when silt reaches 2/3 the height of the fence.



**For more information contact Owen Hooks at x1941**