

Safety & Environmental Newsletter

September 2012 Issue



NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK IS OCTOBER 7—13

The week of October 7—13 is Fire Prevention Week. Attention will be on promoting prevention and fire safety.

Each year thousands are injured due to workplace fires. Being on the look out for potential fire hazards can save your life and the lives of your co-workers. Some potential hazard to watch for are: Poor housekeeping, (such as excessive trash, oily rags, packing materials, or combustible items on the floor or ground.) Frayed electrical cords, over loaded circuits, power equipment that sparks or smokes when in operation, improper discarding of cigarette butts, improper storage of chemicals and the use of paint or other flammables in poorly ventilated areas.



The risks of fires at home are real. Statistics gathered by the U.S. Fire Administration are startling. Every ten seconds, somewhere in the United States there is a home fire. Every 60 seconds, a fire department somewhere is called to a home fire, and annually, 2,600 Americans lose their lives in a fire and 13,000 others are injured.

Fires can start any where in the home but fires that start in bedrooms are often caused by poor maintenance of electrical devices, smoking while in bed, improper use of lit candles and/or children playing with matches or lighters. Some things to remember concerning potential hazards can be achieved by following some basic rules: Keep flammables at least 3 feet away from heaters and lit candles; never smoke in bed; do not use electrical appliances or electric blankets with frayed cords; always remember not to overload electrical outlets; have a Fire Evacuation Plan, and conduct drills with your family often; consider purchasing a fire escape ladder if you have a 2-story home; Keep check on your smoke detector batteries and have on hand fire extinguishers that are strategically place throughout your home; and remember to clean and inspect chimneys and furnaces annually.



“Safety Is Key, It Is Up To You

And Me!”



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A Sad Day at the Beach

Early on Wednesday, September 26, 2012, a 33-foot young adult female hump-back whale was found stranded on Wallops Beach. Strandings can occur due



to natural causes or as a result of human contact. Unfortunately, the whale had to be euthanized. Preliminary necropsy results indicate the whale had abnormalities in the heart and thoracic cavity.



Wallops worked with the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center Stranding Response Team to keep the whale comfortable, study the whale, and assist with burial of the whale.



Wallops Environmental Management System FY 2013 High Priorities

After reviewing the 2012 High Priority accomplishments and the projected environmental impacts of fiscal year 2013 planned operations and projects, WFF Senior Management approved Wallops Environmental Management System High Priorities on September 27, 2012. The 2013 High Priorities are:

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

At the core of the Environmental Management System is the Goddard Environmental Policy.



Goddard Policy Directive (GPD)

DIRECTIVE NO. GPD 8500.1C

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 28, 2012

EXPIRATION DATE: June 28, 2017

Responsible Office: 250/Medical and Environmental Management Division (MEMD)

Title: Environmental Policy and Program Management

1. POLICY

The Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) missions expand knowledge of the Earth and its environment, the solar system, and the universe. To maintain our nation's leadership in this endeavor, GSFC commits to conducting missions in a manner that promotes environmental stewardship. As an integral part of all mission planning and implementation, GSFC's environmental policy is to:

- a. Consider the neighboring natural environment while executing GSFC's mission;
- b. Comply with applicable Federal, state, and local legislation and regulations, Executive Orders (EO), NASA policies, and other requirements;
- c. Prevent pollution and conserve natural resources;
- d. Implement pragmatic and cost effective solutions to environmental problems;
- e. Communicate with the GSFC community, our partners, and the public; and
- f. Continue to improve our environmental performance through our Environmental Management System (EMS) including:
 - (1) Promote awareness through education and training;
 - (2) Integrate environmentally sustainable best management practices into our daily work activities;
 - (3) Explore advances in environmental technology; and
 - (4) Provide a framework for setting objectives and targets.

These commitments enable each of us to do our part for environmental stewardship in our community.

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 community.

For additional information please visit the Environmental website at <http://sites.wff.nasa.gov/code250/>