

Safety & Environmental Newsletter



CHART A COURSE FOR SAFETY

5th Issue

Construction Safety at Wallops

May 21, 2010



Usually you would expect an article with this title to address safety of workers at a construction site. However, this is about those of us who are exposed to this activity, not those participating. There are many construction sites currently active at Wallops. The new facilities on the island associated with Range improvements include the Horizontal Integration Facility (HIF), the new Pad 0A, modifications to existing infrastructure, and other support facilities are currently under way. On the Main Base, Building H-100 is being modified and construction will soon begin on a new propane gas distribution system across the site that will heat most of our buildings. Plans are in place to make other modifications and improvements in the coming months. The construction crews will be present for many months.

When you are around a construction site there are a few things to keep in mind. First, be observant of vehicle and pedestrian controls. Obey road blocks and detours, and watch out for the construction workers. They are working on their task and may not be paying attention to you. Make adjustments to your normal routine and travel patterns and do not cross into construction zones, even if there is no current activity. You do not know what hazards are present and the perimeter zones are set up for your safety. Pay attention to them and comply with the instructions to ensure your safety.



There are many hazards present including moving heavy equipment, lifting operations, uneven soil conditions, blowing dust, exposed utilities and open trenches to name a few. Do not enter areas that are under construction unless you have a job related need. Be sure to check in with the site supervisor and wear the required personal protective equipment (PPE) for that site. Even if you have to be on site for only five minutes, you still need to dress the part. Mishaps on construction sites are not reserved for full time construction workers.

At the end of this process we will be able to see a lot of improvements across the entire facility. Please obey these simple construction safety rules to ensure your safety and the safety of the construction workers who are working hard to build all of us a better place to work!

**“SAFETY
FIRST,
LAST,
ALWAYS.”**

What Have You Done for Safety Lately??

Highlights from Wallops Facilities Management Branch Code 228, Branch Head Don Lilly

This branch has the job of design, construction, and maintenance of our facilities at Wallops Flight Facility (WFF). The order of the day dictates that a key topic in each segment of operation is SAFETY. From Branch meetings to Construction Inspector's meetings the subject of safety is an integral part of topics discussed.

At each branch staff meeting, a safety video, safety topic, or a presentation is given to highlight some feature of safety. Some of the topics that have been covered in the past are tick borne illnesses, spider identification and dangers inherent to such. This type of information is important to keep everyone aware of potential safety hazards and situations, as well as provide and maintain a safe work place.

In addition Construction Inspectors meet to discuss safety on a weekly basis. These safety topics are determined based on the type of construction activity going on at the time. Before beginning each construction project at WFF a safety plan is required that is specific to WFF and the work to be performed. This safety plan must be approved by the WFF Safety Office prior to starting any of the scheduled work. These requirements are another step in providing a safe work environment.

Communication is very open and subjects of safety are welcomed. Those who work in this branch are not apprehensive about relating any safety concern or issue. In fact, this office believes that “A little bit of foresight and common sense goes a long way in maintaining a safe work environment.”



Bahama Mama!

As part of NASA's Protected Species Monitoring Plan the Environmental Office monitors Wallops Island Beach for threatened and endangered species. There are currently 4 pair of piping plover, with 3 nests established to date.



The piping plover pictured has come to us all the way from South Blanket Flats, North Andros Island, Bahamas! Shane Whealton snapped this picture revealing bands that were used to identify the bird who was banded this past February.



Two pair have nested on the recreational beach. As you can see in the picture above the eggs are very hard to see so please use extreme caution in the soft sand, as other nests are expected. The Environmental Office will exclose nests as soon as they are discovered in an attempt to help the piping plover have a successful "launch!"

What Exactly is EMS?

At Wallops Flight Facility (WFF), the same creeks and bays which we work beside during the day, provide our fishing and recreation outlets after work. Each and every person can have a positive or negative impact on this sensitive environment. Our Environmental Management System (EMS) helps us consider and then manage the impacts that our work processes have on the environment.

WFF's EMS consists of the *people* who may impact the environment, the *policies, procedures and work practices* that they follow, and the *equipment and resources* they have available to them. Each has a key role to play individually in environmental protection, but when everyone works together, the EMS becomes much more powerful. The EMS helps us to protect "our backyard" so our children and grandchildren will also be able to enjoy the pristine, natural beauty that the Eastern Shore offers.

Our EMS is a risk based framework for environmental protection. It is a means to better control the ways we might impact the environment at WFF and a mindset that is proactive rather than reactive. EMS also provides an avenue for setting environmental objectives and targets as well as establishing environmental priorities. These priorities change based on an annual systematic review of the current status of all relevant programs conducted at WFF.



2010 HIGH PRIORITIES

1. Protected Areas and Protected Species
2. Tenant Permit Responsibilities

2010 MEDIUM PRIORITIES

3. Energy Conservation
4. Environmental Planning
5. Water Management
6. Site Restoration
7. Tank Management