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From the Director's Desk

“PtD”: the three letters mean Prevention through Design, and the acronym describes the concept that Benjamin Franklin had in mind when he coined the phrase, “An ounce of prevention ...”

PtD means investing that ounce of prevention by incorporating occupational health and safety up front in designing the features and contents of a workplace. It means saving a pound of cure through smart planning in the very early design phase to prevent or minimize work-related hazards associated with the construction, manufacture, use, maintenance, and disposal of facilities, material, and equipment.

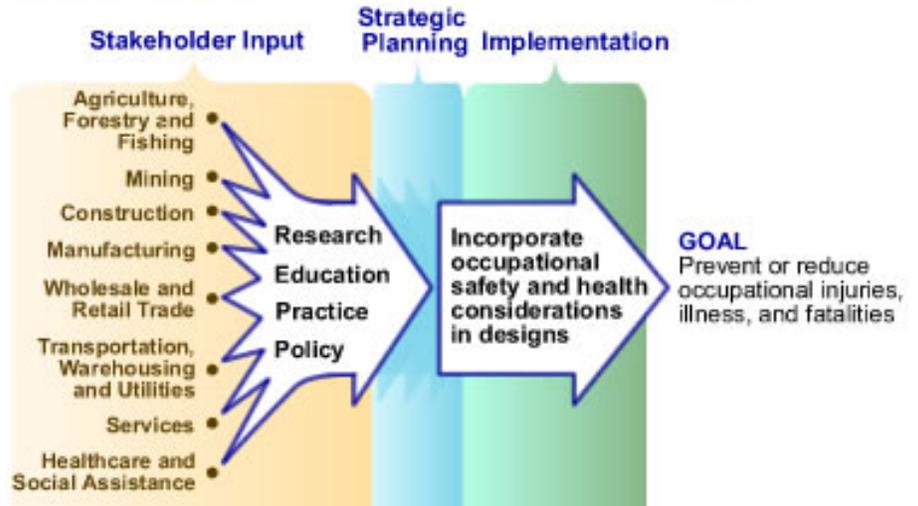
This year, PtD becomes part of NIOSH’s tool chest as we join with our partners to launch the PtD National Initiative. Our shared goal is to bring together engineers, architects, and other designers with employers, the worker community, government agencies, occupational safety and health professionals, insurers, and others to develop a national strategy for Prevention through Design, and to identify achievable end-points.

As the chart indicates, PtD will encourage stakeholder input through a sector-based approach consistent with the one used under the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA). This approach will seek input on research, education, practice, and policy to be considered in strategic planning, leading to the implementation of PtD in the consideration of occupational safety and health in design. The goal: prevention or reduction of occupational injuries, illnesses, and fatalities.

As of this writing, our initial partners include the American Society of Safety Engineers, the Center to Protect Workers' Rights, Liberty Mutual, the National Safety Council, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and ORC Worldwide. We anticipate that many others will join in coming weeks and months.

Further information will follow on the NIOSH web page and in upcoming issues of eNews. In the meantime we hope you consider ways in which you can participate with us in this new initiative. We in NIOSH look forward to working with you.

Prevention through Design National Initiative



NIOSH, partners make roads safer for workers and motorists.

April 23-29 is the First United Nations (UN) Global Road Safety Week!

The First United Nations Global Road Safety Week is intended to raise awareness around the globe about road traffic injuries. Among these activities, NIOSH will be represented at the second UN Road Safety Stakeholders' Forum on April 25. More information on Global Road Safety Week can be found at <http://www.who.int/roadsafety/week/en/>. NIOSH global occupational road safety research information can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/programs/twu/global/>.



FIRST UNITED NATIONS
GLOBAL ROAD SAFETY WEEK
23-29 APRIL 2007

NIOSH, diverse partners sign Roadway Work Zone Safety Agreement

NIOSH and partners have formed a new alliance to improve the safety of workers and motorists in roadway construction zones. The alliance will develop hazard awareness training and education programs aimed at Spanish-speaking and other vulnerable highway construction workers about safe practices in roadway work zones. More information is available at <http://www.osha.gov/dcsp/alliances/roadway/roadway.html>.

April 2-6 is National Work Zone Awareness Week.

To learn more, visit the 2007 National Work Zone Awareness Week Web site at http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/outreach/wz_awareness.htm or the NIOSH Highway Work Zone topic page, <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/injury/traumazone.html>.

NIOSH Assists Local Officials in Evaluating Possible Meth Contamination

On March 7, NIOSH responded to a request from the Grant County, KY Sheriff's Office and Northern Kentucky Drug Strike Force for technical assistance in evaluating suspected methamphetamine (meth) contamination in two vehicles and a home. Using an innovative NIOSH-designed field method, NIOSH scientists John Snawder and Cynthia Striley identified multiple locations where meth was present, and provided technical advice for officers' safety on control and remediation. For more details on testing for meth contamination and remediation of such sites, contact John Snawder at JSnawder@cdc.gov or Cynthia Striley at CStriley@cdc.gov.

2007 ACTE-NIOSH Award Winner Announced

James Hauck is the recipient of the 2007 Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE)-NIOSH National Competition for Occupational Safety and Health. Mr. Hauck is a carpentry instructor and safety advisor from Middlesex County, East Brunswick, NJ. The award is presented annually and recognizes excellence in promoting safety and health among educators in career and technical education. Shown in the photo are, from left to right, ACTE President Robert E. Scarborough, 2007 Winner James Hauck, and NIOSH Chief of Staff Frank Hearl, who was in attendance to present the award.



Articles Address Pesticide Exposures in Retail Employees, Farm Workers

Two recent articles by NIOSH scientists and their colleagues provide findings and recommendations on work-related pesticide exposures:

- Research reported in the March-April 2007 issue of *Public Health Reports*, a peer-reviewed journal of the U.S. Public Health Service, found 325 cases of acute pesticide poisonings in the U.S. retail industry in 1998-2004. The article recommended strategic measures to reduce the risk of such cases. http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/pesticides/pdfs/15_PHR122-2_232-244.pdf.
- In an article available on-line from the journal *Environmental Health Perspectives*, researchers examined three incidences in 2004 and 2005 in Florida and North Carolina in which infants with birth defects were born to farmworkers who had recently worked in fields treated with pesticides. The article is available at www.ehponline.org/members/2007/9647/9647.pdf.

Reports from NIOSH-funded extramural studies

News on ERC Pilot Project Study

Sudden cardiac death is the leading cause of death in the line of duty for both volunteer and career firefighters and it is linked to the performance of emergency duties, according to a recent report in *The New England Journal of Medicine* by Harvard researcher Stefanos N. Kales, MD, MPH, and colleagues (N Engl J Med 2007;356:1207-15). This research was supported in part by a pilot project research training grant from the NIOSH-funded Harvard Education and Research Center for Occupational Safety and Health at Harvard University.

Teens exposed to injury, robbery and sleep deprivation on the job

Results from a NIOSH-funded study reveal that teen workers are at risk of being injured or robbed on the job and many work late on school nights. The study, "Work-Related Hazards and Workplace Safety of US Adolescents Employed in the Retail and Service Sectors," was published in the March 1 issue of the journal *Pediatrics* (2007;119:526-534).

Eliminating Silicosis Focus of Latest Issue of GOHNET

The current issue of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Occupational Health newsletter (GOHNET) focuses on silicosis elimination and features two articles by NIOSH researchers. NIOSH is a WHO Collaborating Center for Occupational Health. The latest issue of GOHNET can be found at http://www.who.int/occupational_health/publications/newsletter/gohnet12e.pdf.

Agricultural Workers' Morbidity and Mortality

NIOSH has released "Respiratory Disease in Agriculture: Mortality and Morbidity Statistics," a report of surveillance data on occupationally relevant respiratory disease in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industries. The report can be accessed at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2007-106/>.



Update from the NIOSH National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory (NPPTL)

CBRN PAPR Approved

NIOSH issued its first approval of a powered, air-purifying respirator (PAPR) intended to protect wearers from chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) exposures. The BE-10-BR loose-fitting PAPR is made by the 3M Company. (Mention of a company name and product does not represent a commercial endorsement by NIOSH.)

February figures on the respirator certification and approval process.

During February, the Technology Evaluation Branch (TEB) issued 33 respirator approval decisions and one denial. TEB received 26 applications for extensions of approval and nine applications for new approvals. The Engineering Evaluation team conducted four quality assurance manual audits to evaluate the quality assurance process and manufacturing practices. There were six new approvals or modifications of approvals for CBRN respirators

Important Dates for "WorkLife 2007: Protecting and Promoting Worker Health Symposium"

The deadline for abstract submissions has been extended until *April 30*. <http://www.worklife2007.com/abstract0.asp>

Early registration is open through *May 30*. <http://www.worklife2007.com/registration0.asp>

NIOSH Submits Nominations for Prestigious Science Award

NIOSH has nominated nine outstanding studies by NIOSH researchers for the 2007 Charles C. Shepard Science Award. More details can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/updates/upd-03-26-07.html>.

Occupational Safety and Health Performance Poetry

A video featuring the performance of an inspirational poem in honor of the 35th Anniversary of the Occupational Safety and Health Act is posted on the NIOSH web page at http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/video/OSH_poem.html. The poem was written and is performed by Stacy Smallwood, a public health professional and performance poet, and was a highlight of the 2006 NORA Symposium.

Awards and Recognition

Christine West is one of the recipients of the U.S. Public Health Service Chief Nurse Officer Award. LT West was chosen for her outstanding capabilities and leadership as a nurse epidemiologist.

On February 22, Ken Mead received three awards in Washington D.C. Ken was selected as both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Engineer of the Year and the U.S. Public Health Service Engineer of the Year. The National Society of Professional Engineers recognized Ken as one of the Top Ten Federal Engineers of 2007. Pictured from l-r are CAPT Scott Earnest and CDR Ken Mead.



Dr. Vladimir Murashov, Special Assistant to the NIOSH Director, was recently acknowledged by the Office of Science and Technology Policy in the Executive Office of the President for his leadership in the federal interagency Nanotechnology Environmental and Health Implications (NEHI) Working Group's efforts to develop research priorities for environmental, health, and safety research of engineered nanoscale materials.

New Appointments in the NIOSH Office of the Director

Dr. Michael Galvin, formerly director of the NIOSH Office of Extramural Programs, has been appointed to the position of NIOSH Associate Director for Special Programs. Dr. Galvin will oversee several programs initiated since 2000 that, in response to national mandates, expand the Institute's traditional prevention mission into new areas involving workers' compensation and occupational health care. Dr. Jim Newhall will serve as the Acting Director of the NIOSH Office of Extramural Programs.

r2p Corner

On February 27, 2007, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) proposed a new safety rule that builds on findings from NIOSH injury investigations and work with other partners to prevent injuries caused by oxygen resuscitator fires. NIOSH conducted several injury investigations involving portable oxygen resuscitators and worked with NASA to develop a new testing method for oxygen regulators. More information on the Fire Fighter Fatality and Investigation and Prevention Program is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/>. More information on the proposed rule can be found at <http://www.fda.gov/OHRMS/DOCKETS/98fr/E7-3253.htm>.



NORA

All of the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) Sector Councils have met except for the Mining Sector. Delays were necessary due to enhanced activities required of NIOSH researchers by the [MINER Act of 2006](#) following the mining tragedies of last year. Now, the leaders of the NORA Mining Program are requesting stakeholder comments at a public meeting. Input will be received from the public as part of the first NORA Mining Sector Council meeting, which will be held near Pittsburgh, PA, on May 3. Participation through the web is also possible. Comments are requested on important issues that are under-studied and efficient ways to accomplish the NORA Council mission. We are also looking for individuals and organizations who wish to participate. Send any questions, comments or offers to volunteer to Michael Werner (MWerner@cdc.gov) if they relate to the NORA Mining Sector Council and to NORACoordinator@cdc.gov for other NORA activities.



News From Our Partners

GOHNET, the World Health Organization's Global Occupational Health Newsletter, is seeking contributions for an upcoming issue focusing on national policy frameworks or national plans for workers' health. Contributions are due by May 15. You can learn more by visiting the GOHNET Web site, http://www.who.int/occupational_health/publications/newsletter/gohnet13call/en/index.html.

Communication Products

Documents for Public Comment

A new link on the NIOSH homepage, <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/>, will make it easy for readers to access current documents available for public comment. The link can be found on the right column under "Quick Links." We encourage you to check this link and send us your comments on our draft publications.

NIOSH has recently released the following publications.

- The "School Chemistry Laboratory Safety Guide" [DHHS (NIOSH) Pub. No. 2007-107] <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2007-107/>.
- The "World Trade Center (WTC) Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program" [DHHS (NIOSH) Pub. No. 2007-109] <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2007-109/>.
- Technology News 521 "Development of a Mobile Manipulator to Reduce Lifting Accidents" [DHHS (NIOSH) Pub. No. 2007-111] <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining/pubs/pubreference/outputid2208.htm>.
- "Reducing Worker Exposure to Asphalt Fumes from Roofing Kettles" [DHHS (NIOSH) Pub. No. 2007-115] <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/wp-solutions/2007-115/>.
- The Nation's Investment in Occupational Safety and Health [DHHS (NIOSH) Pub. No. 2007-118] <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2007-118/>.
- Technology News 523 "Evaluation of Dust Collector Bags for Reducing Dust Exposure of Roof Bolter Operators" [DHHS (NIOSH) Pub. No. 2007-119] <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining/pubs/pubreference/outputid2285.htm>.
- Spanish version of "Working in Hot Environments" ("Trabajando en Ambientes Muy Calurosos") [DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 86-112] <http://www.cdc.gov/spanish/niosh/docs/86-112sp.html>.

NIOSH Health Hazard Evaluation Reports

Exposure to animal noise in the service sector

NIOSH responded to four requests for health hazard evaluations in facilities where employees are exposed to noise from barking dogs. NIOSH recommended a hearing loss prevention program, improvements in equipment, and, where appropriate, use of engineering controls to reduce exposures. Links to the full reports are available.

- <http://www2a.cdc.gov/hhe/select.asp?PjtName=42138&bFlag=3>
- <http://www2a.cdc.gov/hhe/select.asp?PjtName=42455&bFlag=3>
- <http://www2a.cdc.gov/hhe/select.asp?PjtName=42457&bFlag=3>
- <http://www2a.cdc.gov/hhe/select.asp?PjtName=42456&bFlag=3>

Combustion by-products in the service sector

NIOSH responded to a management request to evaluate concerns about potential contamination of clothing worn by fire scene investigators. NIOSH recommended that disposable clothing be provided or that clothing be laundered by a professional laundry service. NIOSH also recommended that investigators remove contaminated clothing before entering their cars. The full report is available at <http://www2a.cdc.gov/hhe/select.asp?PjtName=42361&bFlag=3>.

Upcoming Events

Call for Poster Presentations: "NSTI Nanotech 2007"

The call for poster presentations will close on April 13 for the "NSTI Nanotech 2007." The conference will be held May 20-24 in Santa Clara, CA. <http://www.nsti.org/Nanotech2007/>.

NIOSH ERC Annual Scientific Meeting

The New York/New Jersey Education and Research Center 28th Annual Scientific Meeting, "The Changing Workforce and Occupational Health Disparities," will be held April 13, Mount Sinai School of Medicine. <http://ophp.umdnj.edu/nynjerc/Home.html>.

"Occupational and Environmental Exposures of Skin to Chemicals"

The conference will be held June 17-20 in Golden, CO and is cosponsored by NIOSH and the Colorado School of Mines. http://www.mines.edu/outreach/cont_ed/oeesc.

"2007 Johnson Conference: Workplace Aerosol Sampling to Meet ISO Size-Selective Criteria"

The conference will be held July 16-20 in Burlington, VT and is sponsored by ASTM International. Information can be found at <http://www.astm.org> under Symposia and Workshops.

"3rd International Symposium on Nanotechnology, Occupational and Environmental Health"

The conference will take place in Taipei, Taiwan on August 29-September 1. NIOSH is a cosponsor of the conference. <http://nano-taiwan.sinica.edu.tw/EHS2007/index.htm>

"WorkLife 2007: Protecting and Promoting Worker Health Symposium"

The Symposium will be held by NIOSH and partner agencies and organizations September 10-11, in Bethesda, MD. <http://www.worklife2007.com/home.asp>.

"International Roofing Expo 2008"

the International Roofing Expo, 2008 will be held February 21-23, 2008 in Las Vegas, NV. <http://www.theroofingexpo.com/Roofing07/public/Content.aspx?ID=6980&left=0&Nav=0>.

Word of the Month

MINER Act of 2006: Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006. To learn more about the MINER Act and NIOSH related activities, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining/mineract/mineract.htm>.

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