

[NIOSH eNews Web page](#)

To subscribe, click [here](#)

From the Director's Desk

[Work, Life, and WorkLife](#)

[MMWR: Advanced Pneumoconiosis Among Working Underground Coal Miners](#)

[NIOSH-Funded Study Looks at Violence Among Emergency Department Workers](#)

[NIOSH Study Finds Supplementary Breaks Minimized Discomfort, Did Not Impair Productivity](#)

[“Work, Stress and Health 2008” Scheduled for March](#)

Call for Proposals Deadline is August 31.

[Consolidation of the NIOSH 800 number with CDC-INFO](#)

[Conference Wrap-up: Third International Conference on Occupational and Environmental Exposure of Chemicals to Skin](#)

[NPPTL Update: latest respirator numbers](#)

[NIOSH Associate Director for Emergency Preparedness Named](#)

[New Scientific Program Administrator Joins OEP](#)

[Look for Us](#)

Global Collaborations

Director of the Afghan Public Health Institute [visits](#) NIOSH sites

Americas Regional [Initiative to Eliminate](#) Silicosis

r2p Corner

Discoveries and Breakthroughs [Inside Science](#)

NORA

NORA Wholesale and Retail Trade [Sector Council](#)

News from our Partners

CDC [Publishes Guide](#) for Next Decade of Public Health Research

Communication Products

NIOSH Alert: [Preventing Fire Fighter Fatalities Due to Heart Attacks and other Sudden Cardiovascular Events](#)

Upcoming Conferences

Call for [Abstracts](#)

[“International Association of Fire Chiefs Fire Rescue International 2007”](#)

[“3rd International Symposium on Nanotechnology, Occupational and Environmental Health”](#)

[“International Roofing Expo 2008”](#)

[“Fire Department Instructors Conference 2008”](#)

[“American Association of Occupational Health Nurses”](#)

American Society of Safety Engineer’s [“SAFETY 2008”](#) Professional Development Conference and Exposition

[“12th US/North American Mine Ventilation Symposium”](#)

[“International Association of Fire Chiefs Fire Rescue International 2008”](#)

Word of the Month

[Enhanced Coal Workers' Health Surveillance Program \(ECWHSP\)](#)

From the Director's Desk

As we enter the last weeks of summer, September rapidly approaches. I would like to take the opportunity to remind you that "WorkLife 2007: Protecting and Promoting Worker Health, a National Symposium," will be held September 10-11 in Bethesda, MD. If you have not yet registered for the symposium, please visit our Web page at <http://www.worklife2007.com/home.asp> and plan to join us. I anticipate two days of lively discussion and exchange.

Since the previous WorkLife national symposium in October 2004, much has happened at the working level to advance the WorkLife Initiative. Clearly, there is wide agreement that the time is right to explore opportunities and challenges for strategically linking worker health and safety protection with work-based health promotion. Through such linkages, I believe that we together can establish and nurture innovative ways to promote individual, organizational, and economic health related to work.

I am pleased that many diverse partners have embraced these goals in the intervening three years, and that the circle of partners continues to grow. More details about the WorkLife Initiative are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/worklife/>.

At the 2007 symposium, the community of partners will assess the progress made over the last three years and identify continuing needs. This is an opportunity for you to have a voice in:

- Identifying effective worksite programs, policies, and practices and understanding what it takes to put them in place;
- Joining with other colleagues in the areas of health protection and health promotion to present the latest research and identify research needs; and
- Contributing to the development and dissemination of the tools and skills needed to improve workplace health-directed efforts.

The 2004 symposium invigorated the WorkLife Initiative and laid the foundation for the work that has continued since then through one-on-one meetings, telephone calls, emails, and faxes. Please join us in September and add your voice to the deliberations that will shape the next phases of WorkLife.

MMWR: Advanced Pneumoconiosis Among Working Underground Coal Miners

In response to reports of clusters of pneumoconiosis among underground coal miners, NIOSH instituted field surveys under the [Enhanced Coal Workers' Health Surveillance Program](#). Case studies from the field surveys are presented in the July 6 issue of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (MMWR), <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5626a2.htm>. Of the 975 miners tested in seven counties, 37 miners (4%) had advanced pneumoconiosis. Medical record data indicated that those 37 miners had worked at least 10 years without a chest radiograph.

NIOSH-Funded Study Looks at Violence Among Emergency Department Workers

Ninety percent of emergency department nurses interviewed reported being verbally abused at least once in the past year and nearly one-third had been assaulted, but the majority (72%) never reported the incidents. These findings are part of a new report by several outside researchers in a study funded by NIOSH. The study examined workplace violence prevention training, and incidents of violent events and subsequent injury among emergency department employees of acute-care hospitals in New Jersey. The full report, including recommendations for hospitals to improve employee training, can be accessed at http://www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/survweb/documents/njhospsec_rpt.pdf.

NIOSH Study Finds Supplementary Breaks Minimized Discomfort, Did Not Impair Productivity

A new NIOSH study supports earlier research findings that supplementary rest breaks minimize discomfort and eyestrain among data-entry employees without impairing productivity. Participants' ratings of discomfort and eyestrain were significantly lower when four supplementary 5-minute breaks were added to the two conventional 15-minute breaks. Data-entry speed was significantly faster with supplementary breaks so that work output was maintained despite the additional 20 minutes of breaks. The study was published in the July 2007 issue of the *American Journal of Industrial Medicine*. The article is available online at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/ajim.20472>.

“Work, Stress and Health 2008” Scheduled for March

NIOSH, the American Psychological Association, and the Society for Occupational Health Psychology will convene “Work, Stress and Health 2008: Healthy and Safe Work Through Research, Practice and Partnerships” on March 6 – 8, 2008, in Washington, DC. This conference, the latest in a series, is designed to address the constantly changing nature of work, and the implications of these changes for the health, safety, and well-being of workers. Conference topics include: traumatic stress and resiliency, fatigue, workplace diversity and discrimination, and work-family integration. The deadline for paper, poster and symposium proposals is August 31, 2007. <http://www.apa.org/pi/work/wsh.html>.

Consolidation of the NIOSH 800 number with CDC-INFO

Beginning on August 30, 2007, the NIOSH 800-number information service (1-800-35-NIOSH) will become part of the toll-free CDC-INFO public information contact center. CDC-INFO is the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) consolidated call and e-mail handling center. Established in 2005, CDC-INFO provides one-stop access to all the information resources of NIOSH and CDC. CDC-INFO call center representatives are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and answer public inquiries in English and Spanish. Those of you who currently use the NIOSH 800-number may notice some changes in the way inquiries are processed, especially publication requests. We ask you to bear with us through the transition phase.

Please note the new telephone number: **1-800-CDC-INFO** (1-800-232-4636)

Email: cdcinfo@cdc.gov

TTY: 1-888-232-6348

Conference Wrap-up: Third International Conference on Occupational and Environmental Exposure of Chemicals to Skin

The “3rd International Conference on Occupational and Environmental Exposures of Skin to Chemicals” was held at the Colorado School of Mines (CSM) in Golden, CO on June 17-20. NIOSH has been a major sponsor of all three conferences. This year's conference brought together about 140 occupational and environmental health professionals, dermatologists, lab scientists and policy makers from 19 countries.

Abstracts are available on-line at the conference Web site, which will be maintained by NIOSH on the topic page, “Skin Exposures and Effects” (<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/skin>). Plans are already underway for the 4th conference in 2009, which is currently planned to be in Edinburgh, Scotland. Information on this conference will be available in early 2008.

NPPTL Update: latest respirator numbers

During the months of May and June 2007, the Technology Evaluation Branch in NIOSH's National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory (NPPTL) issued a total of 54 approvals and denied approval for 10 products. This includes the approval of 3 products with CBRN protection. Thirteen of the 54 products approved were new products, 26 were modifications to previously approved products and 2 were certified product investigations. In May, 16 applications for extension of approval were submitted and this number jumped to 44 applications submitted in June. Twenty-three applications for new approvals were received in May with 13 new approval submissions in June. Thirty-six approvals for new products were submitted in this time frame. The engineering evaluation team conducted 8 quality assurance manual audits to evaluate manufacturers' quality assurance process and manufacturing practices.

NIOSH Associate Director for Emergency Preparedness Named

NIOSH is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Margaret Kitt as NIOSH Associate Director for Emergency Preparedness and Response, effective August 1. Dr. Kitt joined the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 2002 as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer in the U.S. Public Health Service, with duties in NIOSH's Division of Respiratory Disease Studies in Morgantown, WV. Her assignments with NIOSH and CDC, and previous experience as a Senior Flight Surgeon with the U.S. Air Force, have included extensive duties related to emergency preparedness and response. Dr. Kitt received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from The State University of New York at Albany, a Doctor of Medicine from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, and a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Washington.

Thanks to Dr. Ken Martinez, who has served in an exemplary manner as acting Associate Director since 2006, in addition to his regular duties in the NIOSH Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response.

New Scientific Program Administrator Joins OEP

Dr. Joan Karr started work on July 9 in NIOSH's Office of Extramural Programs (OEP). She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Central Missouri State University and a PhD in Microbiology and Immunology from Baylor College of Medicine. She has previously worked at the University of Iowa (radiation biology research), the National Cancer Institute, and Emory University. She also worked as a Scientific Review Administrator at the California Cancer Research Program and at CDC. Most recently, she worked in CDC's Office of the Chief Science Officer on formal confidentiality protection and managing the Paperwork Reduction Act team. She will be working in several sector and cross-sector areas.

Look for Us

The NIOSH Booth will be on exhibit at:

- "Association of Occupational Health Professionals in Healthcare." September 26 – 28, 2007 in Savannah, GA. Visit us at booths 10&11
- "NanoTX 07." October 3-4, 2007 in Dallas, TX. Visit us at booth #814.

Global Collaborations

Director of the Afghan Public Health Institute visits NIOSH sites

Dr. Bashir Noormal, Director of the Afghan Public Health Institute (APHI), Afghanistan Ministry of Public Health, Kabul (MOPH), Afghanistan, visited the Division of Safety Research, the Health Effects Laboratory Division and the Division of Respiratory Disease Studies in Morgantown, WV, and the Pittsburgh Research Laboratory's mine in Lake Lynn, PA on July 18th and 19th. Dr. Noormal shared the successes and struggles associated with rebuilding the public health infrastructure in Afghanistan. Additionally, Dr. Noormal wanted to learn more about developing and implementing occupational safety and health programs. Dr. Noormal's visit was part of a two-week visit to CDC hosted by the World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Center in Reproductive Health in Atlanta.



Americas Regional Initiative to Eliminate Silicosis

The *Second Regional Meeting to Advance the Latin American Plan to Eliminate Silicosis* was hosted in Santiago, Chile on July 13 and 14 by the Minister of Health and the Minister of Labor of Chile. The World Health Organization (WHO), Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), International Labor Organization (ILO) and Ministerial representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay participated, along with representatives from labor and employers from those countries, the International Commission of Occupational Health (ICOH), the International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA), and experts from NIOSH and Fundacentro, Brazil. Commitments were made to cooperate together to take specific actions necessary to success of this effort. Participation by NIOSH included training to help Chilean officials set up and run sampling for silica dust, and co-chairing a workshop that developed simple and inexpensive control guidance for small businesses in brick-making and stone-crushing.

NIOSH initiated technical assistance to Chile in these areas in 2005 and conveyed admiration for the leadership of the Chilean Ministry of Health and Institute of Public Health for making substantial advances in each area. NIOSH looks forward to continuing cooperation with WHO, PAHO, ILO and the partners of the Americas. Additional information on NIOSH's global collaborations research program is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/programs/global>.

r2p Corner

Discoveries and Breakthroughs Inside Science

NIOSH and the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) have partnered with *Discoveries and Breakthroughs Inside Science (DBIS)*, a series that communicates science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) in programming for local television stations. Story segments will tie NIOSH research with the industrial hygiene profession and AIHA experts. DBIS provides twelve 90-second segments each month to subscribing local stations. Two of the segments are delivered in Spanish to Spanish-language stations. This collaboration is part of the NIOSH and AIHA memorandum of understanding to advance the prevention of work-related injuries and illnesses and facilitate the transfer of research results to practice.



NORA Wholesale and Retail Trade Sector Council

NIOSH and the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) have not had extensive involvement with Wholesale and Retail Trade (WRT) sector leaders historically. The NORA WRT Sector Council has been formed and is successfully working on an occupational safety and health strategic plan for the nation, but additional participants could lend depth and breadth to the deliberations. Do you have experience or an interest in wholesale or retail trade? Do you have expertise in an area important to the sector, for example, falls, violence, musculoskeletal disorders and motor vehicle injuries? Please consider contacting the WRT Coordinator Vern Anderson at VAnderson@cdc.gov to volunteer. There are many opportunities to contribute at different levels. As always, you can send a note to NORACoordinator@cdc.gov to discuss any NORA-related issue.

News From Our Partners

CDC Publishes Guide for Next Decade of Public Health Research

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released *Advancing the Nation's Health: A Guide for Public Health Research Needs, 2006-2015*. The Research Guide identifies research areas that should be addressed during the next decade by CDC and its partners in response to current and future needs and events. <http://www.cdc.gov/OD/science/PHResearch/cdcra/>.

Communication Products

NIOSH Alert: Preventing Fire Fighter Fatalities Due to Heart Attacks and other Sudden Cardiovascular Events

Sudden cardiac death is the most common cause of an on-duty fire fighter fatality. NIOSH incorporates findings from 131 NIOSH investigations into sudden cardiac-related deaths in a new Alert titled, *"Preventing Fire Fighter Fatalities Due to Heart Attacks and Other Sudden Cardiovascular Events."* The Alert, <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2007-133>, discusses workplace exposures that put fire fighters at risk for heart disease, presents case reports highlighting important findings from the NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention program, and provides recommendations to minimize the risk of injury and death to fire fighters from cardiovascular events. Since 1998, NIOSH has been investigating these deaths as part of the Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program, <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire>.



Upcoming Conferences

Call for Abstracts

- U.S. Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security "Technology for Critical Incident Preparedness," November 6 – 8, 2007, San Francisco, CA. Deadline is August 15, 2007. <http://www.ctc.org>.
- "International Association of Fire Chiefs Fire Rescue International 2008," August 14 – 16, 2008, Denver, CO. Deadline is September 1, 2007. <http://www.iafc.org>.
- "2008 World Safety Conference and Exposition," June 2 – 6, 2008, Las Vegas, NV. Deadline is September 14, 2007. <http://www.nfpa.org/wsce>.
- "2008 American Industrial Hygiene Conference and Exposition," May 31 – June 5, 2008, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Deadline is October 2, 2007. <http://www.aiha.org/abstract.html>.

- “2008 ASTM Boulder Conference on Surface and Dermal Sampling,” August 4 – 8, 2008, Boulder, Colorado. Deadline is November 12, 2007. Kevin Ashley in the NIOSH Division of Applied Research and Technology is the Symposium Chair. http://www.astm.org/cgi-bin/SoftCart.exe/filtrexx40.cgi?U+mystore+swqs8906+-P+EVENT_ID+1080+usr6/htdocs/astm.org/SYMPOSIA/callforpapers.frm
- “14th International Society for Respiratory Protection,” September 14 – 18, 2008, Dublin, Ireland. Deadline is June 30, 2008. <http://www.isrp.com/dublin/index.html>.

“International Association of Fire Chiefs Fire Rescue International 2007”

August 23 – 25, Atlanta, GA. <http://www.iafc.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=356>

“3rd International Symposium on Nanotechnology, Occupational and Environmental Health”

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

“International Roofing Expo 2008”

February 21 – 23, 2008, Las Vegas, NV. <http://www.theroofingexpo.com/Roofing07/public/Content.aspx?ID=6980&left=0&Nav=0>

“Fire Department Instructors Conference 2008”

April 7 – 12, 2008, Indianapolis, IN. <http://fdic08.events.pennnet.com/fl/index.cfm>

“American Association of Occupational Health Nurses”

April 25 – May 2, 2008, Salt Lake City, UT. <http://www.aaohn.org/education/symposium-expo/index.cfm>

American Society of Safety Engineers “SAFETY 2008” Professional Development Conference and Exposition

June 9 – 12, 2008, Las Vegas, NV. <http://www.asse.org/speakerpage08>

“12th US/North American Mine Ventilation Symposium”

June 11 – 18, 2008, Reno, NV. <http://www.unr.edu/ventsymp2008>

“International Association of Fire Chiefs Fire Rescue International 2008”

August 14 – 16, 2008, Denver, CO. <http://www.iafc.org>

Word of the Month

Enhanced Coal Workers' Health Surveillance Program (ECWHSP):

Through the ECWHSP, trained NIOSH personnel travel to coal mines and mining exhibits throughout the country to administer thorough examinations to miners in a specially designed mobile examination unit. Learn more about the NIOSH ECWHSP on the Web site, <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/surveillance/ords/ecwhsp.html>.

NIOSH eNews is Brought to You By:

Director	John Howard, M.D.
Editor in Chief	Max Lum
Story Editor	Tara Hartley
Public Affairs Officer	Fred Blosser
Technical Lead	Glenn Doyle
Technical Support	Joseph Cauley

Please send your comments and suggestions to us at nioshnews@cdc.gov.