

OUT & ABOUT

'Safety 'Round the Clock' Spring Fair a huge success

By Mary Peterson

What can you learn that's new about safety and health? Apparently plenty, as about 3,000 people streamed by the approximately 40 booths and outdoor activities that made up the "Safety 'Round the Clock" Spring Fair held Friday, May 11, at the Gilruth Center.

Things got off with a bang-literally. Brian Cornell, a master automobile technician, set off an air bag hourly outside to demonstrate its power and protection value in the event of an accident.

"Although air bags are designed to deploy only in a front-end collision," Cornell told onlookers, "it is possible, if rare, to set the device off by other means." He cited the case of a car that accidentally drove over a chunk of steel, resulting in bottom force impact sufficient to do the deed.

Cornell went on to explain how the air bag acts in concert with the seatbelt, tightening and loosening for maximum protection, all timed in a manner that is vir-

tually indistinguishable to the passenger.

Inside Gilruth were equally stimulating subjects, where fairgoers could talk to local law enforcement officers about safety in their own neighborhood and how to avoid being a crime victim. In some cases, they could even learn the statistics that applied to their area and what types of crime were the most prevalent. One booth displayed an array of guns and gunlocks for those concerned with unsupervised and unwarranted use of firearms.

And what if your house catches fire? One safety representative demonstrated a head covering of plastic with an attached breathing canister, telling audiences: "The Evac-U8 emergency escape smoke hood is the very latest in affordable technology to help you escape a burning building. People too often overlook the fact that more fire victims perish from smoke inhalation than from actual burn injury."

The award-winning design is widely used by Canadian and U.S. Government agencies as well as by hotels, air crews and major corporations. Some fairgoers, for the first time, could see its value in a home as well.

Those wanting health answers took



NASA JSC2001e16504 photo by David DeHoyos
About 3,000 people attended the 'Safety 'Round the Clock' Spring Fair on May 11. Below are some of the event's exhibitors demonstrating fire safety (left) and carseat safety (right).

advantage of subjects as far-reaching as nutrition and fitness to spinal irregularities, skin cancer screening, and blood sugar and cholesterol testing—all just for the asking.

"Now that we're fast approaching hurricane season," said a member of the JSC Spaceflight Meteorology Group, "we've had lots of takers on weather safety information, with many wanting to know where their home stands in relation to the flood plain." If you're new to the area, this was a must-see.

On the parking lot adjacent to the Center, drivers lined up to have their children's car seat checked for proper installation and to learn how to correct it themselves, if need be, from a team of trained technicians. Thanks to Cimarron, Inc., replacement car seats were provided to those whose equipment was substandard or had been recalled.

Colorful balloons dotted the walkways, while popcorn and hotdogs were freely munched by those squeezing in some learning time during their lunch hour, all lending a festive air to an otherwise serious set of subjects.

The fair was produced by Rindy Carmichael/MEI, in cooperation with the Safety and Test Operations Division of the Safety, Reliability and Quality Assurance Directorate. ■



Latest and greatest in technology featured at Expo

By Laurie Branham

The third annual ODIN Alliance Technology Expo hosted by OAO was a huge success.

Hundreds of people attended the event, which was held May 10. It included 12 computer vendors and JSC civil and contractor employees. Dell, Apple, Microsoft, HP, Sun, SGI, and Cisco were just some of the vendors who participated with booths.

Everyone who attended was able to see the latest and greatest in computer technology available under the ODIN contract for the year 2001.

OAO demonstrated 12 new seat types, including three UNIX seats each from SUN, SGI and HP and three printer seats from HP.

Also, OAO and Dell announced the

NASA Employee and Subcontractor Purchase Plan Web site.

Go to the ODIN Outreach Web page at http://www.houston.ooo.com/csd/cmoutr_home.html. Then click on the link: "Dell OAO/ODIN Customer Purchase Program." You must do this two-step process to get to the exact page.

This year's expo included "break-out" sessions upstairs at the Gilruth Center. These sessions had detailed classes where the vendors were able to reach groups of people who wanted to learn more about a specific product or software/hardware.

Overall, the ODIN Alliance Technology Expo 2001 was a fun and informative way to learn more about what is available for JSC through the ODIN contract. ■

Dave Matthews Band Tours JSC



Drummer Carter Beauford and Saxophonist LeRoi Moore of the Dave Matthews Band visited Johnson Space Center for several hours on Thursday, May 10. The band was in the Houston area to perform at the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion on May 11 and 12.