



JSC Photo 97E04317

David Anderson, left, and Brent Goswick demonstrate how electricity will travel through a baseball cap at last year's Texas/New Mexico Power Co. Arc Demonstration.

Booths, seminars to provide wide array of information

You know the old saying about an ounce of prevention. At Safety and Total Health Day, information will be available to enable visitors to practice prevention by the pound, in the workplace, at home, and in between.

"This year is no exception to the number of booths and seminars available to supplement an organization's activities on Safety and Total Health Day," said Booth Committee Co-chairman, Jonathan Manning. "They will all be presented or staffed by experts in their fields."

Total Health booths

Red Cross, St. John's Sports Medicine Center, United Cerebral Palsy, High School/High Tech, Bay Area Turning Point, City of Houston Health Dept. & Environmental, Harris County Health Dept., Center of Reproductive Medicine,

Life Gift, Ergonomics Solutions, Crisis Pregnancy Center, Harris County Pollution Control, St. Luke's Blood Donor Booth, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Asbestos Info - Occupational Health Office and EHS, JSC Dental, JSC Clinic - Questionnaire/ Spin Booth, JSC Clinic Lab Booth - Kelsey-Seybold, JSC Clinic - Patient Information & Russian Travel, JSC Clinic - Doc in the Box, Manned Test Support, Nutrition, Employee Assistance Program.

Safety booths

Bay Area Local Emergency Planning Commission, Hurricane Preparedness, Greater Harris County 911, Houston Police Department, Texas/New Mexico Power Co. Arc Demonstration, Spill Response, Texas Society to Prevent Blindness, Emergency Operations Center, Sharp Object Damage Program, Pasadena Police Department, Life Flight, Coast Guard, Communications Working Group, VPP Information Booth, Seabrook Police - Gun Safety, American Society of Safety Engineers, Pasadena Police Department - the Convincer and narcotics displays, Texas Hearing and Service Dogs, Houston Fire Department, JSC Spill Response Team, JSC Environmental Office, JSC Close Call.



JSC Photo 97E04321

At last year's Sharp Object Damage Booth, Paula Beckstrom, left, and Jim Thornton display space gloves damaged during the STS-72 shuttle mission.

Seminars/speakers

Tony Brigmon, 9-10 a.m., Teague Auditorium; Women's Self Defense, 11 a.m.-noon, Teague Auditorium and 3-4 p.m., Bldg. 30; CPR Training, 12:30-3:30 p.m., Gilruth; and Aerobics, 4-5 p.m., Gilruth Center. For more information call Jonathan Manning at x46264. ■

Putting the action in safety

By Mary Peterson

When somebody speaks to you about safety, does the thought cross your mind, "Everything I needed to know about safety, I learned in kindergarten?" Well, join the crowd. Probably 99 percent of us feel that way.

If that's true, then why do we have so many accidents—major, minor and all those in-between knee-skinners? The answer is simple. We know the rules, mostly, but safety hasn't become a way of life.

"That is something we're hoping to change at JSC," said John Fields of the Safety, Reliability and Quality Assurance Office.

JSC already has a progressive safety program in place, Fields said, but one thing was missing, and that was employee ownership—specifically, a say so, a right to be heard, a measure of control in what must be done to keep JSC employees safe and healthy.

The latest addition to the center's safety awareness toolbox is designed to provide just that. The new JSC Safety Action Team established by JSC Director George Abbey is chaired by JSC Deputy Director Jim Wetherbee and comprised of rank-and-file employees.

"Not too long ago, a junior member of a fairly new contractor team noticed that a certain forklift operation was careless and unwieldy, with clear potential for injury. He said as much, but his warning was dismissed," Fields said. "The inevitable happened, and an employee was seriously hurt. Could this have been avoided? Obviously, and it should have been. Moreover, instead of being ignored, the reporting employee should have been commended for his attention to safety."

With about 20 members, the new JSC Safety Action Team will include representatives from each directorate. The committee will have access to the center director equal to that of the existing Executive Safety Committee and the Contractor Safety Forum.

"What makes this different," according to Fields, "is that the JSAT will be completely employee-driven (contractor, civil servant, and union-based), including, eventually, the chair position currently held by Capt. Wetherbee, whose primary purpose for now is to help get things organized and in motion." Fields also pointed out that participation is voluntary and open to all employees.

Close Call Reports appropriate to JSAT will come to the committee for resolution, and the committee may spin off tiger teams to solve particular problems. In addition, the committee

will develop and implement solutions to safety issues, coordinate with management, facility managers and others, investigate reports, perform inspections, and determine new ways to protect workers.

"The JSAT will be a self-contained entity with few restraints and will be listened to. Management will give its full support," said Fields, "and we think the JSAT will go a long way toward making safety a way of life at JSC."

Safety a way of life? Because the majority of JSC employees work in an office environment, many feel protected against hazards, but as Fields pointed out, "Office and office-like areas account for 24 percent of all lost workday cases and 21 percent of all medical treatments."

Recalling his recent visits to other large industries, Fields said, "Without exception, those companies who have instituted safety and health measures at the request and direction of their employee groups have seen an impressive drop in days lost due to mishaps or illness. These are disciplines that people take home with them, too, and that is when the level of safety consciousness becomes near ideal. You don't practice safety only at the workplace because your supervisor insists and then leave it at the door at day's end."

Instances of employees taking the reins already have been noted. Recounting one such episode, Earl Thompson, manager of engineering and operations for the Space Management Office, said several people who were responsible for developing data and packaging in payload operations support where he was then division chief, brought to management's attention that severe back strain and other stress were being suffered in their work.

"After discussions with safety specialists," Thompson said, "they formulated their own solution, which included supplying fatigue mats, adjusting table heights, using smaller package containers, and having a contract courier service shoulder the heavier, more difficult loads. These changes were simple, easy, and cost effective," Thompson said. Problem recognized, problem solved—by the employees themselves.

"We expect to see more and more of this kind of interest and participation," Fields said, "and we want all on-site JSC employees, contractor and civil service alike, to know that JSAT is their committee, their forum, and their place of action. If it isn't safe, say so, and something will be done without fear of reprisal or being singled out in any way." ■

Astronaut band to serenade Safety and Total Health participants

It will be lunch "to the max" during Safety and Total Health Day.

After an enlightening morning focused on safety and health issues, JSC employees will be able to enjoy the spacey mid-day music of the "Max Q" astronaut band.

The orbital ensemble will perform stellar selections from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. outside the Bldg. 3 cafeteria. Carry-out lunches will be available from the cafeteria to take out to the lawn, where connoisseurs of fine food and fine music will be able to relax — perhaps even in the shade of a tree — and indulge both passions.

Extra trash bins will be set up so that JSC can be kept clean. Take advantage of this chance to hear the band perform their far-out tunes. ■