

Ripped from the ROUNDUP

Ripped straight from the pages of old Space News Roundups, here's what happened at JSC on this date:

1 9 6 4

Ling-Temco-Vought is developing a compact space pack which promises to convert an astronaut in a pressure suit into a one-man space vehicle for assembling and servicing spacecraft in orbit, transferring from one vehicle to another and performing numerous other tasks in space – all independent of the parent spacecraft.

The space pack will enable an astronaut, for the first time in the nation's space program, to be completely detached from the orbiting spacecraft and perform useful missions in the weightlessness of space.

1 9 7 9

Tom Wolfe's new book about the age of rockets, the early astronauts, and the world of military flying is about to be released, and the author will be in town to sign autographs.

Wolfe started *The Right Stuff* in 1973. He came to JSC, interviewed more than 30 astronauts and pilots and became fascinated with the dangers of being an astronaut or test pilot, individuals who, he says, "go up in a hurtling piece of machinery and put (their) hide on the line and then have the moxie, the reflexes, the experience, the coolness, to pull it back in the last yawning moment – and then to go up again the next day and the next day, and the next day."

1 9 8 4

NASA last week issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to U.S. industry for definition and preliminary design of a permanently manned space station. The space station will support scientific and commercial endeavors in space, stimulate new technologies, enhance space-based operational capabilities and maintain the United States' leadership in space. Because it will be a multipurpose facility serving many users, NASA's objective is that the space station be "customer friendly" and be dedicated to fulfilling customer requirements in its design and operation.



Nature's most violent storm

Employees empowered for safety

Here in the USA, tornadoes have occurred in every month, so any time is a good time to review tornado safety procedures. Only a small percentage of tornadoes actually strike occupied buildings, but every year a number of people are killed or injured. The chances that a tornado will strike a building that you are in are very small, however, and you can greatly reduce the chance of injury by doing a few simple things.

The normal lead time for a tornado warning is no more than 20 minutes and is typically less than that. There may be no warning. Sometimes there are not a lot of options for protection when a sturdy shelter is not nearby. Tornadoes harm people primarily through airborne debris. So being outdoors when a tornado strikes poses a threat if there are things nearby that could go flying through the air. Do not stay in your car or get into a car to get away from a tornado. Cars are death traps in these storms because they can be tossed about by high winds or crushed by debris.

One of the most important things you can do to prevent being injured in a tornado is to be alert to the onset of severe weather. If a tornado watch is issued for your area, it means that a tornado is possible. If a tornado warning is issued, it means that a tornado has actually been spotted, or is strongly indicated on radar, and to go to a safe shelter immediately. If you see a tornado and it is not moving to the right or to the left relative to trees or power poles in the distance, it may be moving towards you! Although tornadoes usually move from southwest to northeast, they also move toward the east, the southeast, the north and even northwest.

In high-rise and large buildings, central stairwells are good, but elevators are not. If the building loses power, you may be in the elevator for a long time. If there is no sturdy building nearby, lie face down in a ditch and cover your head with your hands.

- Leave auditoriums, gyms, and other free-span rooms.
- Go to interior rooms and halls on the lowest floor but avoid halls that open to the outside in any direction.
- Stay away from glass, both in windows and doors.
- Crouch down, and make as small a "target" as possible. If you have something to cover your head, do so, otherwise, use your hands.

Encourage your family members to plan for their own safety in many different locations. It is important to make decisions about the safest places well before you ever have to go to them. An underpass is not a safe refuge from a tornado. While videos may show people surviving under an underpass, those tornadoes "just missed." In fact, people were killed hiding in underpasses during the May 3 Oklahoma tornadoes.

Tornadoes are measured by the Fujita scale, developed by the late Dr. T. Theodore Fujita at the University of Chicago. The scale ranks tornadoes from F0 to F5, with F0 indicating a tornado that does light damage and has wind speeds up to 73 mph. An F5 tornado does incredible damage and has wind speeds greater than 261 mph. Only 2 percent of tornadoes reach the F5 level.

The JSC Employee Warning System will be used to warn employees to take shelter until the danger passes. Additionally, the Emergency Information Line, 281-483-3351, will be updated with current information about the threat or emergency response status. ■



TICKET WINDOW

Exchange Store hours

Monday-Friday

Bldg. 3 7 a.m.-4 p.m.

Bldg. 11 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

All tickets are nonrefundable.

Metro tokens and value cards are available.

For more information, please call x35350.

UPS is moving to Bldg. 11 effective September 15, 1999.

The following discount tickets are available at the Exchange Stores

General Cinema Theaters	.....	\$5.50
Sony Loew's Theaters	.....	\$5.00
AMC Theaters	.....	\$4.75
Fiesta Texas	.....adult ..\$18.25 ..(child under 48")	...\$15.50
Astroworld One-day Admission	.....	\$21.00
Water World	.....	\$10.75
Moody Gardens (2 events) – ticket does not include Aquarium or Pyramid	..	\$10.75
Moody Gardens – Aquarium only	.....	\$9.25
Sea World	.....adult ..\$27.25 ..child (age 3-11)	...\$18.25
Schlitterbahn Water Park	.....adult ..\$20.75 ..child (age 3-11)	...\$17.50
Space Center Houston	.....adult ..\$10.25 ..child (age 4-11)	...\$6.50
(JSC civil service employees free.)		
Space Center Houston Annual Pass	.....	\$18.75
Splash Town Water Park	.....adult ..\$14.50 (child 48" and under)	...\$11.50

Effective October 1, the JSC Exchange will accept personal checks with a valid Texas driver's license. A NASA badge will no longer be required. There will be a \$25 charge on all returned checks.