



## Occupational Safety PEP Comments for Employees



Thursday, June 21, 2001

### Marshall Space Flight Center

- 5/17/01 MSFC has an excellent safety program. Employees are encouraged to report unsafe condition with fear of reprisal. S&MA has worked diligently to improve their safety program the last 2 years.
- 5/17/01 My work area contains only computers, printers, fax machine, no hazardous equipment or materials.
- 5/17/01 Mice and roaches have been seen in my building, 4200. I believe this is a health hazard. I would like to see more done in rodent/roach control.
- 5/17/01 Working in an office environment, I do not need training for a hazardous working environment. My management and fellow employees are very concerned with safety in our work area and everything possible is done to keep employees in this area safe.
- 5/17/01 Safety emphasis has gone overboard at this center. Personnel are reluctant to report injuries because it will affect our safety record. Safety is important; however, I believe that we have gone overboard on stressing it's importance.
- 5/17/01 There needs to be more communication to employees about:  
(1) The Close Call reporting system;  
(2) Health and safety equipment in the office; and  
(3) Health and safety resources for employee or department use.
- 5/18/01 Ergonomic assessments are done only by request. Much of the newer furniture does not allow for ergonomic adjustments.
- 5/18/01 Safety has become more of an issue at MSFC instead of getting a job done. If half the time was able to be spent on our programs and projects that is put into making everyone aware of safety, we may not have so many things canceled.
- 5/18/01 NASA has placed exteme emphasis on safety to the point of driving the workforce crazy - NASA now needs to concentrate on actually doing some real work instead wasting valuable time and resources on endless safety meetings.



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5/18/01

It appears that in my workplace safety is all that we talk about. We receive safety slogans every morning when we boot up. We have a safety minute in every staff meeting. At directorate level meetings it seems that every manager feels the need to have a personal safety minute in addition to the one that starts off the meeting. We are constantly receiving e-mails on 'close calls' of weighty matters like checking your bed sheets for bugs while on TDY. It is my belief that the incredible deluge of safety related information does itself compromise safety. Several instances I've observed lead me to believe that there is substantial resentment to the way our safety policy is implemented. Whenever someone complains about the time and effort expended constantly on safety they are perceived as 'not a team player'. If one cannot argue against the way the safety policy is implemented without fear of reprisal then going to OSHA with a safety issue is even worse. The zeal to reduce accident risk has taken us past the realm of common sense and into this nether region where any action or comment is acceptable as long as its intent is to increase safety. The safety bandwagon seems to be filled with those who are using their medium to push their views on safety without any eye to other's efforts. Thus duplication of message to or time impact on the workforce is not minimized. This reduces time available to the workforce to accomplish our mission. This situation is made even more difficult when one considers the fact that NASA is not an agency that has a mission anymore. Workplace safety campaigns would have carried more weight during the Apollo era when there was real work to be done and the individual workers efforts seemed to matter. Job satisfaction and a feeling of accomplishment is compromised in an era where projects are canceled and an individual is not allowed to believe that he will be allowed to complete a task once undertaken. In this environment 'safety first' becomes 'safety only'; however, safety is only meaningful the context of achieving a goal. I would have no work related safety accidents if I stayed home and never worked with potentially dangerous machinery. I do so to meet a larger goal, in which case maintaining safety while completing the mission is an admirable and absolutely necessary goal. I hope that someday we return to attempting the near impossible, in which case we will have more important safety issues to discuss and prevent than bedbugs.

5/21/01

Reference question #62. On 9-15-00, the water in one of our labs was tested and found to NOT meet standards. Bldg 4711, Room E112. Sample # 01393, 01394 and 01395. We received a test report but to date nothing has been done to correct to situation.

5/21/01

When the subject of inadequate lighting in the parking areas was brought to managements attention, the response was that there is no money to provide additional lighting (I work in a facility that is manned 24 round the clock). I think this is an unacceptable answer.

5/21/01

I have never worked in an organization that provides such an emphasis on safety -- both at work and in the home!

5/21/01

Building 4610 has many offices with very old carpet and is rarely if ever vacuumed or dusted. This results in many employees having allergy problems

5/21/01

First Aid Kits should be provided for each department.

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Regarding q. 84, I was first hired more than 20 years ago and I do not remeber any such training. Things may be different today.

**By:** Civil Service Only

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- 5/21/01 The offices on the South side of 4202 (first floor), get extremely hot in the afternoons (when the sun hits the windows). We have requested sun shields for the windows, but have not heard anything on them.
- 5/21/01 Undo prompting by management may have biased my answers
- 5/21/01 I am aware that we have a medical facility onsite (down the road), but am not aware of any first-aid kits in our building or area.  
I do carry a handful of band-aides in my desk drawer at work.
- 5/21/01 I have worked for four Federal agencies. The safety program at MSFC is by far the most visible and supported I've seen or heard of. Initiatives like the twilight zone trips, slips and falls program, the Dupont training effort and computer startup safety messages serve as very effective reinforcements of the importance of safety. Unfortunately I hear significant concerns from many employees that the program is reaching a point of over saturation. The constant focus and additional requirements such as mandatory surveys, additional reporting requirements and mandatory, but non-essential safety meetings has the potential to detract from the programs overall goals and objectives. As we quickly approach a full-cost accounting mode of operation, I feel it will become even more important to find ways to promote the safety program without creating additional administrative burdens on non-safety professionals.
- 5/21/01 This survey includes health, which I believe includes stress. To me, one of the biggest health hazards in an office environment is stress, but your survey barely covered it. This, I believe is a major overlook that should be addressed in the future.
- I have a major work-related stress item I would like addressed but am afraid to bring it up anymore, for fear it will negatively impact my career.
- 5/21/01 Does the cost of the 1 1/2 hr x 388 plus (safety all hands Morris auditorium) people exceed the cost of a few people who have twisted ankles etc. being off for a day. Even with the emphasis on safety we still have uncoordinated accidents. Everyday messages on the computer are more cost efficient.
- 5/22/01 Workers in office/white collar environments face a limited set of hazards, usually limited to trips, falls, back injuries due to unwise lifting, etc. Other potential hazards are severe weather, earthquake, fire, terrorist attacks. It seems that the survey could be tailored such that office workers who don't work with hardware/equipment and face the inherent hazards associated with those don't have to plow through all of the questions associated with protective equipment, etc.



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- 5/22/01 I am unfamiliar with my safety training plan and things pertaining to it. I imagine the training is the same for all my co-workers and it may be that I just have not been exposed to it.
- 5/22/01 Safety is really well emphasized here. It is taken seriously.  
I would like to see some Health improvements such as expanded number of aerobics type classes, weight training, and water aerobics (we need a pool!)
- 5/22/01 Ergonomic hazards have been ignored in my work area. As an office worker, I feel that my long-term health and fitness for duty has been taken for granted by management. Also, the tornado shelter that we are required to use is inadequate for the number of people that must use it. It does not meet federal regulation standards.
- 5/22/01 I believe there exists modest safety deficiencies in reporting, especially of close calls. With most of NASA understaffed, there has been an apparent attitude from first-line supervisors that an employee who has time to report close calls is wasting valuable time.
- 5/22/01 #20, 28, 60 & 62 Building is old, dusty, moldy and contains asbestos. Dust and mold are circulated under raised flooring.
- 5/22/01 I believe that the system to report "close calls" for incidents that involved some mistake or misstep by an employee encourages people to not report these items. One contractor employee slipped on wet leaves on base and the ensuing "investigation" and publicity was absolutely humiliating. I heard she wished she'd never mentioned it.
- 5/22/01 I am quite satisfied with the commitment my upper management (all levels) shows in my safety, health, and welfare.
- 5/22/01 Costs prevent adequate ergo needs being met.
- 5/22/01 All the elements are in place for an effective safety program. It's up to the individual managers now to ensure that it's done right and everyone knows about it.
- 5/22/01 Management here at Marshall take a strong approach to Safety and keeps their employees well informed.
- 5/22/01 Our group is serious about Safety... even to the detriment of handicapped individuals!
- 5/23/01 Survey is not total applicable to an office work area.



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- 5/23/01 I believe our Center has a great program in place. I do appreciate the time and funding that NASA, as well as our Center management, has provided in making me a healthier and safer employee.
- 5/23/01 If both exits are blocked in Building 4200 by fire, explosion, etc. I'm not sure that adequate rescue plan has been established. Where are employees to meet? 10th Floor? I don't think employees are informed of a backup plan in the event that one is needed.
- 5/23/01 I am a new employee who is still learning the safety program at MSFC.
- 5/23/01 Question 5: Since I had not heard the phrase "safety program's Core Process Requirements, I thought I would quickly brief myself by finding it on Inside Marshall and become familiar with it. I searched for the phrase "Core Process Requirements" as well as "CPR" and could not locate it anywhere on Inside Marshall. I looked at the Safety link and other links where I thought it might reside and found nothing. I even looked up CPR in the NASA Acronyms document and found no reference to "Core Process Requirements". If it's there somewhere, it's DEEP and not easily accessible. Hence, my response to question 5 remains a "1".
- 5/23/01 Safety is an important aspect of the work environment; however, for a non-hazardous environment as measured by rational criteria, such as a typical office atmosphere, the agency/center can not afford to dilute scarce manpower resources with the ever-growing litany of safety related exercises such as this.
- 5/23/01 we spend more time on areas like safety and ISO9000 then is needed. MSFC is not getting benefits equal to or even close to what is being invested in them.
- 5/23/01 The answers to the questions involving health were negative because Bldg 4610 is filthy and not kept clean enough. My allergies are always worse at work than anywhere else.
- 5/23/01 We are too obsessed with safety. If I wanted a "safe" job, I'd be an accountant. I am not unconcerned with safety, but I am tired of being treated like a two-year-old child. I am an adult, and fully capable of assessing and accepting the risks of activities I engage in.



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- 5/23/01 I am quite comfortable with the level of safety training and awareness in this organization!! I'm just not aware of the 'nit - detailed rules and regulations', and don't believe I have to be in order to be SAFE!!
- 5/23/01 Air quality in our building is always a concern -- asbestos and constant dust on the desks and cabinets. The water provided in the fountains tastes and smells. NASA should provide bottled water for employees working in these old buildings, and do something about the asbestos problems.
- 5/24/01 #20 and #28: i believe i have a safe work area, however the health side of it has a few issues. the building is very old and the ventalation system is probably older and the air ducts have probably never been cleaned and no telling what is growing in them and blowing out every day.
- #44 and #45: dont believe we've had any to investigate.
- #46: have never submitted one.
- 5/24/01 Becaues I am off site, much of my training and enviornmental control is handled by the resident contractor. Here it is Thioikol. They are very good. However, very little training is offered by MSFC for offiste personnel. It would be nice if they would send us off to some basic training courses. Also it would be nice if arrangements could be made to have the yearly physicals be conducted here instead at MSFC. Sometimes we never make it back to MSFC during the year for the physicals.
- 5/24/01 Safety is a joke in my area. Our safety office is known for its hands off approach and lack of practical real world experience.
- 5/24/01 I was given a sheet of paper that has (1) my name, and (2) my "Control Number". Weren't we supposed to pretend this survey was anonymous?
- 5/24/01 MSFC IS A VERY SAFE PLACE TO WORK
- 5/24/01 MSFC management has successfully raised employee awareness of safety issues, in my opinion. I am much more aware of potential sources of injury for my family when at home, as well as being more safety conscios at work.
- 5/24/01 I work in an office environment with no hazardous equipment or special training required. The primary thing that should be done to increase safety/health is to promote cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification widely at the Center.



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- 5/25/01 The building I reside in is off-site from MSFC and is owned by UAH. We recently were relocated to this building. Personnel from both MSFC (C/S) and UAH occupy this building which causes uncertainty as to which policies / guidelines the personnel of each respective institution fall under. MSFC's Industrial Safety Office has recently been made aware of this situation and plan to discuss with UAH on proper implementation of safety policies. An example of the uncertainty would be for offices that UAH personnel occupy who do not work on NASA cooperative agreements, are they subject to the NASA Safety Policies?
- 5/25/01 the water in our building is not safe to drink. This water has been tested several times. We are always told the lines need to be flushed, filters, etc, or the water test comes back safe to drink. The water is brown. No one will or can drink it.
- 5/25/01 Survey was way too long....



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5/25/01

Most items that are of safety or health that are called in such as water or air quality are NOT taken seriously "IN MOST CASES"!!!!  
Contractors who support our area do not inform us of corrective action taken or quick fix get it done and get out attitude permeates this particular area...NOW AGAIN not all of the particular shop contractors do this from any particular shop .HOWEVER--we had a water problem with chill water entering the potable water system--as an example...we were told there was nothing wrong./  
The water was brown with floating debris in it..AND YET THEY STILL denied there was a problem,,THIS is an old building granted but still we should not be exposed to the devil may care type of attitude..It is not the fault of the building manager...nor is it the fault of the management who send out the contractor to repair the problem..it is the crew themselves who lack the initiative to first of all look deep into the problem,,then inform us, then transfer the problem to the proper shop and tell us what steps have been taken and to whom the problem now belongs...AND no date as to when the problem will be solved...we are left in the dark...In addition some problems problems have recently been discovered as closed items when in fact they were never accomplished--pencil whipped I believe is the term..  
I have numerous examples of this type of contractual fraud which i have elevated to my superiors...and supposidly they are being worked but not without all kinds of complaints and double checking everytime a called in problem has been finished. Have to go and double check every write up called in for building maintenance....  
In addition when something belongs to the ARMY we get poor or little support with little if any "sense of urgency" to solve it..Now AGAIN IT DOES NOT HAPPEN every time but it happens enough to warrent these comment..  
Thank you..  
Ralph Young  
ED-37  
4-7219



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- 5/25/01 Safety at work and on our projects is the number 1 thing we think about. Failure in development testing is something we can't prevent all the time, but we ALWAYS make sure that the failure does not hinder the safety of operators, observers and facilities.
- 5/25/01 Stress levels, as a result of down-sizing, are not being considered in the overall safety and health of the organization.
- 5/25/01 My safety concious level has been hightened since our Director has placed total emphasis on Safety. I am much more concerned and vocal about safety. Thanks very much. This helps in my work life as well as the safety of my precious family!
- 5/25/01 Ergonomic considerations for office work is not addressed adequately at the Center. The modular workspace does create problems for people who do NOT fit the "average" range.
- 5/29/01 My work area contains an extreme excess of fabrics that harbor allergens. They cause me to live in a state of constant illness. Not only does management refuse to correct the situation, they are making plans to convert additional areas to be similiar to mine.
- 5/29/01 This Survey should be anonymous. We were given control ID sheets with our names written on them rather than just a random distribution. This would indicate a way to track control ID to an individual.  
Since some of these questions deal with management's performance, one could easily see a motivation for managers to track employee responses for the purpose of retribution. The threat of retribution will lead to incorrect survey results which could potentially mask problems with the safety program.
- 5/29/01 I have only been with NASA for one year, but at MSFC, Safety (both work and home) has been emphasized in every area I have been in and is the main emphasis at the center.
- 5/29/01 I had to request to have an ergonomic evaluation done.  
It was completed in a timely fashion.
- 5/29/01 Safety is very important in Information Services Department and our Acting Director, Rick Helmick, is a GREAT example for the rest of us. He teaches us all by EXAMPLE!



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5/29/01

Training for using fire extinguishers on different types of fires is not required, but should be required. I have attended a demonstration, but I have not actually been formally trained in using a fire extinguisher on different types of fires.

Also, I had CPR training many years ago while I was in college, but I think MSFC should require that organizations should have a certain number of people who are trained in CPR, and everyone in the trained persons' area (within a certain distance of their office) should know they are trained and available to use CPR if necessary.

Some safety hazards, like the drain pipe at the east end of C-wing that empties onto the side walk, are not corrected in a timely fashion. The spout on that drain pipe was not properly installed, and as far as I know, it has still not been fixed. When it rains quite a bit, the water coming out of the drain pipe makes the wet sidewalk even wetter, which is a slipping hazard.

5/30/01

In my opinion, the emphasis on slips, trips and falls has gone way overboard. I would be interested to know the amount of manpower/\$\$\$ put into this versus the results realized. I think there is a diminishing return on investment beyond providing an awareness of available facilities/training/tools to operate in a safe environment. I know that I have been provided a safe work environment and that NASA & MSFC works to improve upon this but I sometimes dread coming to work because I have to keep being trained on how to pick up boxes, walk slowly, hold the handrail, look both ways before crossing the road, etc.



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- 5/30/01 I work in an office environment, and I am concerned about indoor air quality, water quality, and asbestos. Bottled water is provided (and we appreciate it), but the water fountains are still operable. It is unclear as to whether the water is hazardous. If it is, the fountains should be disabled so that unsuspecting visitors don't drink it. Water quality test results and their meaning should be readily shared with employees. The web site that is supposed to have this information doesn't seem to be up to date. I also have concerns about asbestos. Managers have indicated that there may be asbestos in the building, but they are not really sure. They just tell us not to move any ceiling tiles. I would like for the safety organization and facilities office to be clear and forthcoming about asbestos hazards in each building. They should let us know where the asbestos is and the controls that are in place. If we are not supposed to move ceiling tiles or go into certain areas, this should be formally communicated. As for indoor air quality, I am usually very healthy, but since moving to 4666, I have had two severe sinus infections. I am beginning to think that the poor HVAC system, peeling paint, musty odors, and old carpets are to blame, but I have no idea what to do about it.
- 5/30/01 I believe the close-call and mishap reporting systems are not very effective in preventing the possibility of mishaps in the work area. Although, the intent is good it presently does not establish a proactive process to prevent the possibility of mishaps.
- 5/30/01 keep up the good work
- 5/30/01 Attention to health and ergonomics is improving, but lags behind safety awareness.
- 5/31/01 One of my on-going concerns is with respect to resources to implement corrective actions which have been identified. Several 199's have been generated to improve conditions, but have not been implemented due to a lack of resources.



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5/31/01

Safety is becoming a joke.

People are more worried about meeting a certain number than caring about the well being of individuals. They are more interested in getting all 5's on this survey than the truth. They are more interested in having more safety findings and resolutions so they can get a show a certain number or percentage of mishaps. People care more about looking good than the well being of the people. Therefore, safety is becoming somewhat a laughing matter.

There are solutions. But to truly care about people has to come from one's heart. It is unselfish love, caring for self and others. To implement this teaching and be effective, would require that love of Jesus Christ be accepted and given. For those that would not accept Jesus Christ, hopefully, they could love from their mind.

As far as health, we have poor drinking water here--it comes out brown and they say it is okay to drink. I wonder if they would raise their children on it? These kind of things causes me to loose trust in the health folks. The air has dust coming out if it in large particles. The basics are not being met.

5/31/01

NASA is a good, safe, healthy and pleasant place to work.

5/31/01

The contractor safety managers are also the quality managers. They have to spend so much time in meetings, doing safety inspections and writing JHAs that they do not have time to manage the quality (ISO) programs and the quality programs are suffering. To continue the safety program at this level, we will need to make adjustments in staffing levels. This is also true for civil service.

6/1/01

Would like to see health issues addressed relating to the cleanliness of this bldg.

6/1/01

Low score for No. 27: Additional resources are needed to perform medical case management for the workers' compenstion program.



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- 6/1/01 I believe safety has been greatly emphasized at NASA/MSFC and our Center encourages both civil servant and contractor employees to openly communicate any safety concern without fear or reprisal. My management certainly has a strong commitment to safety and encourages open communication.
- 6/1/01 Low grades in survey are due to building facility problems (bad water, gas fumes, etc.). Noticed when we were in B4566, we stated that H2O was not fit to drink. OSHA checked & stated it was fine. We have now moved out & others (contractors) have moved in & have noticed that bottled H2O supplies entire building. Same issue in B4475 (let H2O sit too long --- turn on, settlement occurs for a short time, then clears up --- OSHA has been called on this). Solution to H2O problem is bring your own H2O from home.
- 6/1/01 I wish bandaids and dusks masks were easy to get like ear pluds and safety glasses.
- 6/4/01 12/Don't know where the first aid kits are.
- 6/4/01 More informational assistance can be rendered to the employees overall physical and mental health status. This would increase the consciousness of safety tremendously. Slips, trips and falls should incorporate the importance of diet, exercise and efective management of stress.
- Thanks!
- 6/4/01 At present my work area (my office) is not to contain critical safety or hazard parameters.
- 6/5/01 The continual emphasis on safety will result in desensitizing employees to safety. Recall if you can the constant nagging of your mother about watching while crossing the road; constant and incessant reminders often have an effect opposite that intended.
- 6/5/01 a few experienced observent safety experts might be better than a thousand untrained non observent workers
- 6/5/01 I feel that Safety is the most important concern at Marshall and mishaps are rare.
- 6/6/01 When near the number of (reported) misses are used as a metric (where more are considered a bad thing) the number of reported near misses decreases, though the number of near misses typically increases. The same is true with the number of hardware Discrepancy REPORTS. I am not sure that contractor or NASA management has figured this out yet.



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- 6/6/01 There is fire and rescue support in my work place but don't know if it is/isn't "adaquate." Presume so, but there's been some discussion, for example, that fire ladders may not extent to the top floors of my building. Also, asbestos exist in my building, but I don't know what standards are "adaquate." However, I presume adaqueate measures ARE being taken.
- 6/6/01 MSFC's commitment to safety is commendable.
- 6/6/01 MSFC has a full featured and well functioning occupational safety program. Actual program performance results have been better in the past, however.
- 6/7/01 The air quality in MSFC Bldg. 4666 is a hazard to the health of those that work in the building. Nothing is being done about it. The carpets have age old mildrew in them. The air in building 4666 makes people sick. Building 4666 is a very unhealthy place to work!!!
- 6/8/01 I believe that safety is something very important. It is important to be safe. I love my family and want them to be safe. I feel safe when I am aware of safety problems. Safety will keep me from getting hurt. This means that my life will be happier. I try to keep safety first in all that I do. I appreciate the concern that management has for safety. I think it is because they care about me.
- 6/8/01 The water in our builing is full of particulate matter. We have asked management to provide drinkable water for us, but they have not. We now bring in water at our own expense. In the other wing of the building , water coolers are available and signs are posted that the water is undrinkable.... this is a different org. with different managers. Why should we be treated differently?
- 6/9/01 Answers may seem inconsistent because there are discrete gaps in specific aspects of safety. The overall program is certainly making a difference but I feel safe in my job primarily because I have made my own personal efforts to train myself and my support personnel and to make sure my equipment is maintained.
- 6/10/01 The format of the survey this year is far improved from last year.  
Question #12 mentions first aid kits: What is MSFC policy regarding first aid kits? In the past we have been told they are discouraged for fear they will lead to not relying on the medical center for treatment. (A bad rationale in my opinion.)  
Question #20 -- I have allergies and my office is covered with dust. MSFC needs a policy to address allergies, particularly in our very old buildings.  
Question #52 I see lots of information regarding injuries, but I'm not sure about illness



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- 6/11/01 Re: Question 41
- Submitted SCRS #1373 12/14/00 concerning fire doors blocked open in MSFC Building 4610. Latest status dated 3/19/01 indicates work order for electromagnetic holding devices submitted, but has no projected completion date, and doors continue to be blocked open.
- I don't know if SCRS is supposed to provide feedback to submitters, but I've had to dig for all followup info.
- Dave Scott, 256 544-3226
- 6/11/01 #29 asks whether they have expertise to address the SAFETY, but not the health issues (e.g., ergonomic workstation design).  
#49: reporting of ergonomic issues is not encouraged
- 6/11/01 For Special Equipment and configurations, consultation and joint analysis is needed for Safety staff to adequately assess and identify the hazards and controls for safety within my test facility
- 6/11/01 Don't know answers simply mean i am not a part of the process that deals with that particular subject. N/A means I am not aware of such actions in the particular location I work.
- 6/12/01 I work off-site at a contractor's facility. Because of this, the answer to some of the questions was not always clear.
- 6/12/01 The word "Ergonomic" need to be changed. It may be unclear to some.
- 6/12/01 I work in an office and feel most of the above questions were not related to me. I did not know how to answer most of the questions above.
- 6/13/01 Safety is covered well, but health is nearly never talked about. I am also concered about the actual response times for emergencies of the choking type.
- 6/13/01 I think in some areas our safety program should focus on encouragement and cooperation and avoid an atmosphere of coercion and intimidation. A good example of this is MSFC Management's insistence on everyone ALWAYS using handrails. This policy is promoted through intimidation and it may very well be against employees best interests to use a handrail everytime a handrail is available - considering both safety and health risks. Little, if any, consideration has been given to the health risks of always using handrails, especially during the cold, flu, and influenza season. It is quite easy to use stairs very safely without using handrails - I've been doing it all my life.



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- 6/14/01 My primary concern re health hazards is in the area of water quality. It seems this topic has not been reviewed properly and dealt with. At one time the drinking fountains were outfitted with water purifiers, but not now. So why the change? Has the water been PROVEN acceptable for drinking? If not, with all the emphasis on health, why can't we given water purification systems? I've worked for MSFC for 11 years and this area continues to be a puzzle. If the water has been PROVEN acceptable for drinking, the information hasn't been properly disseminated. Thanks for your help in this vital area.
- 6/14/01 I believe that it should be a requirement for all work areas to have a first-aid kit of some sort.
- 6/14/01 Marshall's commitment to safety is not just 'lip service' - it's real.
- 6/14/01 I have been working away from my office for the last six months and don't really know how everything is kept in this building (4666).
- 6/14/01 As to the 4's on a safe work environment. Before the days started getting longer, the lighting after dark outside 4610 was terrible. Half the lights did not work. This has been turned in by others. As it now stays daylight so long, I cannot yet tell if this has been fixed, but this has been a persistent problem (lasting months) in the past. Fixing lights in parking lots seems like such a simple thing to do. Everywhere else I go after dark, parking lots are so much more brightly lit. If this is not fixed, someday someone will fall and may be stuck out in the cold in the parking lot for hours if they are badly hurt. If safety is so important, why does it take so long to fix a few lights?
- 6/14/01 Safety and Health are almost always linked together. However, occasionally health issues arise which are not directly related to a specific safety issue. For example, stress and working long hours take a tremendous toll on one's health. In our organization we often work very long stressful hours and even though there are mechanisms to get additional pay for some of this work, the harm it does physically is sometimes irreparable. This aspect of our Safety and Health plan is not given enough emphasis. Also, employees come to work every day with personal problems dealing with marriage, finances, children, etc. that affect job performance in ways that would be difficult to measure. I see people in the cafeteria often eating alone who have the appearance of being totally dejected and almost despondent. I had an chance opportunity to have a discussion with one of these individuals one day and some of the things he said were frightening. He truly was and is a troubled individual and he comes to work every day carrying his burden. This type individual could just explode one day and cause harm to himself and/or others. It makes me wonder how many others are in my work place with this kind of mental capacity. We definitely need some form of continuous training or outlet for relieving stress and open, visible help with psychological problems. I appreciate the opportunity that this survey has given me to voice these concerns. I recommend some additional emphasis on physical and mental health within this organization.
- 6/15/01 It was S&MA not my management who did not respond adequately to a dangerous traffic situation. (SCRS a couple of years ago)



## Occupational Safety PEP Comments for Employees



Thursday, June 21, 2001

6/15/01

It has been proven that second hand cigarette smoke is hazardous to one's health. However, the government still allows smokers to gather at doorway entrances to federal buildings which forces non smokers to constant exposure to harmful smoke. This prevents workers from having a safe and healthy work environment.

6/15/01

I don't fully believe everything that I indicated, herein. The difficulty is with my immediate management, they could be careless about me, let alone my safety.

Also, I would like to thank Roger of the PEP help desk, he was great.



# Occupational Safety PEP Comments for Managers



Thursday, June 21, 2001

## Marshall Space Flight Center

- 5/17/01 We now have the most visible and comprehensive approach to safety that I have ever experienced in my entire career with the agency (over 30 years)
- 5/20/01 Safety is a part of everyday life at the MSFC.
- 5/22/01 Excellent place to work. Safety is number one here.
- 5/22/01 MSFC has an outstanding safety program that actively involves all of its employees, both civil servants and contractors. It has improved employee safety not only in the workplace but at home and has made their families safer as well.
- 5/24/01 Lack of adequate funding, especially in general use equipment maintenance (not high tech lab equipment), continues to be an impediment to everyone's desire to make the center as safe as it could be.
- 5/28/01 Several questions were asked for items beyond my knowledge. I presume that certain activities are performed such as a review of emergency preparedness after each incident. However, since I am not certain these occur, I cannot answer positive on that item. Try to tailor the questions to the individual and remove the facility level information.
- 5/31/01 Excellent effort by management and employees to ensure a safe work environment.
- 6/1/01 Survey has been significantly improved. Thanks
- 6/1/01 I am happy with our health and safety program !!!
- 6/4/01 Changing the Safety Culture is a slow process that will continue to evolve. Clearly, over the past two years of effort, the safety program at MSFC has evolved to one of heightened awareness and sensitivity. Major progress has been made and will continue to be made.
- 6/5/01 Although management is doing the best they can with limited resources, it appears in many cases there is not enough funding available to always take the appropriate action.  
There is definitely a disconnect between the safety office and the facilities office. It is not unusual for facilities to complete a job leaving open issues that have previously been reported as unsafe by the safety office (faulty raised floors, abandoned wiring, inadequate power outlets, inadequate grounding, etc.). Sometimes the safety office has to build a legal case citing detailed code to get facilities to meet safety obligations. I don't think the facilities office has truly bought into the MSFC safety goal.