



## Occupational Safety PEP Comments for Employees



Monday, August 25, 2003

### Marshall Space Flight Center

- 07/07/2003 Recently I was made aware that there are no safety procedures IN PLACE for bringing a person down the stairs when they are unable to walk down in case of fire. I feel that safety chairs should be available on EACH floor of a multi floor building for this type of emergency.
- 07/08/2003 I work in an office enviroment with no PPE required.
- 07/08/2003 The Safety, Health, & Environmental (SHE) Program is headed in the right direction. MSFC continually strives to reach a 'World Class Safety Program' and works diligently with all supervisors and managers to have the best safety program for Center employees. Managers should continue to set an example for their employees to follow.
- 07/08/2003 This site has a well-functioning safety program that has been in place for many years, implemented by dedicated and hard-working professionals who are the best you will find anywhere.
- 07/08/2003 My duty station is an office and I am not required to operate heavy equipment or move heavy items as part of my regular duties. I do participate in a monthly safety walk-thru of the facility.
- 07/08/2003 Some of these statements are simply not applicable to my workplace. My personnel description identifies my work as sedentary and thus the statements about receiving equipment training as well as assessing the risks in my workplace were difficult to either disagree or agree with.
- 07/09/2003 Well done.
- 07/09/2003 The MSFC Industrial Safety program is extremely thorough.
- 07/10/2003 Question #37 (Question 73 on 90 Question Survey) - The word "Adequate" is the reason I "Don't Know", I am aware of equipment in use at my facility, but whether it is "Adequate" is up to the safety specialists and not to me!
- 07/10/2003 The frequency of these surveys is imposing. I speculate that 90% or more of employees are never subjected to any work environments that require special training and, therefore, surveys should be tailored to organization activities and needs.



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- 07/10/2003 It is irresponsible to give one month to take refresher training and this survey.
- Most of the center is responsive to employee input on safety but Center Operations doesn't seem to care. They park their vehicles on top of crosswalks, in front of handicapped entrances, and just make excuses and exemptions whenever you complain.
- 07/10/2003 ED10 has two AED available in this building. Training on use of this device was offered to those that were interested. I appreciate this effort on the part of my lab director, and those persons who helped get these in place.
- 07/10/2003 EXCELLENT SAFETY PROGRAM.
- 07/10/2003 31 (Question 64 on 90 Question Survey). I take issue will adequate. I have been involved with two SCRS/close class and had a incident investigation in my preivous MSFC position. The SCRS involved security issues and were blown off by the former head of security. The investigation, in my opinion, went overboard and was unnessisarily long.  
Common sense is commonly missing from the NASA safety system buracracy. Either NASA goes overboard or ignores some safety issues.  
6 (Question 12 on 90 Question Survey). In 4203, our MSA bought a first aid kit out of her own money. Why is there not a first aid kit in each kitchen and refilled monthly by the building managers? That is more helpful than checking fire extinguishers that have no gauge and have other people also checking.  
42 (Question 84 on 90 Question Survey). When I moved to 4203, no one gave me a safety briefing. I had no idea where the stairs were (really bad designed building). A safety brochure for 4203 needs to be made and given to everyone each time a move is made or a new employee is hired.  
Fire drills are real confusing to new people and in some of the wall offices (stair well offices) the alarm is barely audible.
- 07/10/2003 Ergonomic evaluations have not been included as a part of the health accessments for my work area but I think should be added.
- 07/10/2003 More information should be readily available to address the future impacts of a sedentary life/work style. More courses of health improvement should be offered to the middle age employee.
- Thanks, for the opportunity to participate.
- 07/11/2003 I believe that MSFC is committed to providing a safe workplace.
- 07/11/2003 Shouldn't everyone at MSFC be certified in CPR and First Aid? Fire extinguisher training would be useful too. When I worked at Cape Canaveral Air Station everyone, no matter their job, was required to take CPR and Fire extinguisher training.
- 07/11/2003 I question the need to expend the resources necessary to develop a JHA for office workers



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- 07/11/2003 Far too much time are spent on safety for office-type operations. We can do adequate safety inspections twice yearly for non-factory type of work. We should not lump safety for office and production environments into one program!
- 07/11/2003 Smokers are still standing in doorways to buildings. This is very unhealthy for non-smokers who are forced to walk through cigarette smoke everytime they enter/exit a NASA building. This needs to be corrected.
- 07/11/2003 Ques. 39 (Question 77 on 90 Question Survey): I'm relatively new in this org and in a position still being defined; currently strickly and office environment; significant risk associated to the job has not being identified at this time.
- 07/11/2003 Several safety training courses (overhead crane refresher for example) often fill before our group is made aware that they are scheduled. More slots in the popular safety courses are needed.
- Response time to review and correct items posted on the SCRS (Safety Concerns) can be slow. Safety reviews of IHOPS inputs are also slow as many safety office reviewers are occupied on program review boards.
- 07/14/2003 Tremendous resources are expended to catalog employees' attendance at safety meetings and to promote the flashy safety program instead of focusing on the core issues facing NASA, the Center, and our local organizations. In my opinion, NASA mission-related safety is not a high enough priority in the current safety program at the Marshall Space Flight Center. It seems easier to tell people to stop falling down staircases than it is to prevent a Columbia disaster but what do the American people really need for us to do? What do we really need? The USA deserves a space program and workforce that is committed to mission-related safety. There are ground-based hazards in our aerospace work that deserve appropriate attention, too. I consider those to also be mission-related. It may be 'nice' that the official Center safety program purports to care about employees' safety away from their jobs but is it really appropriate to spend such huge amounts of time and resources on non-mission-related subjects? The Columbia disaster is proof that NASA's safety program is a failure. It should be restructured to better serve USA interests, now and in the future. We should learn not to fall down steps on our own time. Let's focus more on safety success for NASA missions. Our business is space. Our safety program should reflect that. The bureaucracy surrounding the current program is profound and it is wasting precious government resources. The USA deserves better.
- 07/14/2003 We need to do a better job in identifying and correcting health hazards in office areas. Recently, employees have had to rely on outside testing to proof health hazards such as mold in air ducts or water system contaminants exist. Once outside sources confirmed suspicions, then the Health Office acted on the findings.



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- 07/14/2003 Our drinking water tastes bad. They investigated, but the water still tastes bad, so I'd say that was an unsatisfactory resolution.
- We do not get any direct reports on the conditions found when air monitoring, or other health monitoring is done. It may be online somewhere, but I could not find it on the SHE web site. It would be nice to be able to pull up all of the safety related info on a building.
- 07/14/2003 I feel too much emphasis is placed on things like holding hand rails, etc. Our safety program should be more focused on equipment safety
- 07/15/2003 the hazard analysis I am referring to is the constant odor that comes from the kitchen/bathroom pipes. I really don't know what it is and apparently it is not a priority for anyone else. I have been told it is not harmful to anyone in the basement area.
- 07/15/2003 I don't think I have been made aware of any possible exposure to hazardous materials associated with working in an older building. (Asbestos, Army chemicals, etc...).
- 07/15/2003 Majority to all fire extinguishers are for paper/wood fires only. I know of more fires started by faulty electrical equipment versus paper. The available fire extinguishers are not useful on electrical fires.
- 07/15/2003 Strongly disagree was answered on questions 10 (Question 19 on 90 Question Survey) and 14 (Question 27 on 90 Question Survey). I am located in 4708, problems with the sewer system for years (building closed 06/23/30 because of methane gas). the air quality is worse from carpet squares Boeing has put into offices (we also now have blue lint!!). I put proper filtration in my home, so why can't we do it here. Seems like these type of problems aren't fixed, they're either fixed at or b\*\*\*\*s\*\*\*\*\*d away.
- 07/15/2003 There is no real prevention program for ergonomic injuries. Help is generally available only after an injury has occurred. For instance, you can't get an ergonomic chair to prevent back injury until after you already have back problems.
- 07/16/2003 Responses to many of these questions imply direct knowledge. When specific interaction has not taken place, one could presume an affirmative or negative response, or base it on the content of presentations about what is or isn't being done or available, but that would not adequately address the question as posed. To do otherwise would be speculation. For those questions I have responded with "don't know".
- 07/16/2003 I am new to this organization so I had to answer "don't know" to several questions (like workplace inspections) that I haven't encountered yet.
- 07/16/2003 The Government should provide bottled drinking water for its employees.
- 07/17/2003 For 90% of the workers (usually in the office) this survey is worthless and just inflates the "feel good" safety report that is generated. Meanwhile NASA has major failures and loss of life and no one is ever held accountable. To the average line worker it seems that true safety is not really the concern, it is just the impression that management wants to maintain.



## Occupational Safety PEP Comments for Employees



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- 07/17/2003 A strong commitment to safety is apparent in my work area, including management's verbal support of safety and in actions taken.
- 07/18/2003 I am the safety officer / building asst for the 2nd floor of 4201.
- 07/18/2003 The building I work in is old so I'm not sure how healthy of a work environment it is. I have allergies so some time the musty smell bothers me. The water in the restroom toilets also smell especially on Monday mornings after a weekend of no one using them.
- 07/18/2003 Darlene Gardner, the Shuttle Safety coordinator provides excellent safety support with her daily monitoring and monthly safety meetings.  
GEH 7/18/03
- 07/18/2003 Confusion resulting from "my work area" since Procurement is collocated at other sites.
- 07/18/2003 I had requested a chair for my back in October of 2002...have yet to receive it so I continue to suffer back and neck strain.
- 07/18/2003 We are doing good on personal safety; Who is worrying about Shuttle Safety?
- 07/21/2003 Regarding management commitment to safety, I am concerned about "wordsmithing" reports of potentially unsafe activities. For instance, management typically DISCOURAGES the use of language such as "suffered an apparent failure" and would rather replace the offending phrase with the more benign "began to exhibit anomalous behavior." The only apparent reason for the substitution is to try to avoid bringing additional scrutiny to an area of a project which probably SHOULD receive additional scrutiny.
- 07/21/2003 I don't think the ergonomic assessments for the desk jobs using a computer all day are emphasized enough. The proper computer monitor, the correct chair, the filter screen for the monitor, and the arm rests should come standard with each desktop. Every chair should be inspected by the OSHA personnel to determine if any changes need to be met. The costs for any new equipment, i.e., chairs, arm rests, etc., and/or upgrades should be freely paid by each department's top manager without having to compete with other funds.
- 07/21/2003 The SSWP website information needs to be available and in some cases accept data from other than supervisors.
- 07/21/2003 A good, thorough survey that should identify areas that need upgrading if conscientiously answered by participants



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- 07/21/2003 Regarding #42 (Question 84 on 90 Question Survey). "When I started work in this area, I was given a formal safety orientation to allow me to become familiar with the hazards and facility safety practices associated with my job."
- I was not provided this at the time of my hiring. However, It was provided since then.
- 07/21/2003 I work at a contractor's site off MSFC and the contractor typically takes care of most safety issues/concerns/training, not MFSC.
- 07/22/2003 Equipment manuals for copiers (office equipment)are NOT available near equipment.
- 07/22/2003 Note: I am an NASA ARC employee resident at MSFC. My official supervisor and performance plans (with safety included)are at ARC. Therefore, an mention of these items in the survey above is N/A for me at MSFC.
- 07/22/2003 For #36 (Question 71 on 90 Question Survey) & 37 (Question 73 on 90 Question Survey), due to being relocated at the Intergraph building, do not see any fire extinguishers & do not have access to NASA video/weather alert annouements.
- 07/22/2003 My biggest safety concern at Michoud Assembly Facility is the practice of holding workers at the plant as a hurricane approaches until there is a significant threat. The problem is that the hurricanes are not sufficiently predictable and the bridges out of New Orleans may all go under water blocking peoples escape to high ground. The management at MAF is following procedures but I don't like the procedures given the evacuation issues out of this below sea level city.
- 07/22/2003 I completely disagree with the way drinking water quality is determined...multiple samples are taken and if a single sample passes out of many...the water is "good" and bottled water is removed from a building.
- 07/22/2003 Excellent safety survey questions and excellent system for meeting our safety survey requirements.
- 07/22/2003 Q23 (Question 45 on 90 Question Survey). I know anyone can be called to be a member of a mishap investigation team. However, I cannot recall anyone in my immediate area serving on one of these teams.
- 07/23/2003 Our water fountains have lots of brown water coming out. You can fill an ice tray in the evening and the next morning when frozen you can see brown ice.
- 07/23/2003 The safety program is very important to our organization and is worked very hard and managed very well



## Occupational Safety PEP Comments for Employees



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- 07/23/2003 Re. 10 (Question 20 on 90 Question Survey). did nothing to repair cube exposed wiring and metal plates. nothing done about replacing recalled power strip for 6 months. too warm for effective working (heat loads not taken into account when setting temperatures in bldg 4203. continual problem with ladybugs (what happens to the dead guts???)
- 07/23/2003 Note: I am assigned to an off site location at a private contractor's facility.
- 07/23/2003 inadequate feedback from management on actions taken, recent stats.
- 07/23/2003 Employees are trained and made more aware of safety issues than they were 10 - 20 years ago.
- 07/24/2003 Special accommodations has been made to ensure my evacuation in case of emergency
- 07/24/2003 Question 21 (Question 42 on 90 Question Survey) seems like it should be over under the Systems Safety survey. Perhaps it is on both. Isn't SCRS for personal health and safety and NSTS (as an example) for Shuttle related or program related safety concerns? I am confused. Clarification?
- 07/24/2003 I do not have confidence that the water in my building is safe.
- 07/25/2003 Industrial Safety receives a considerable amount of attention, almost to the exclusion of system safety attention. Unfortunately, the high visibility afforded industrial safety and the lost time statistics seems to have created the paradigm that system safety is secondary to the job we do here. We need to find a way to increase the visibility of the system safety aspects of our jobs without detrimental effect on industrial safety.
- 07/25/2003 I am in a new building, and some of the emergency procedures are still being worked out, like where to meet after evacuating a fire.
- 07/25/2003 The missing question is  
"Do you think that too much attention is placed on safety issues that could be classified as the 'trivial many', and not enough on the 'vital few'?"
- 07/25/2003 This survey asks about equipment and work area safety but it does not question the stress level the a person's workload has on them. While this may not be a safety issue with equipment, it is certainly a safety health issue that needs to be addressed. Since people are one of our core values, we should look at this.
- 07/28/2003 Since I have an office job the risks are minimal so I tended to be very positive when completing this survey.
- 07/28/2003 No first aid kits in my office area, so far as I know.



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- 07/28/2003 You frequently mention "safety and health" as if they are equal concerns at MSFC. In fact, promotion of health and healthy lifestyle habits are rarely addressed. Healthy lifestyles are certainly not promoted by management's insistence on meeting schedules at any cost while, at the same time, understaffing every project. Let's quit talking and start supporting more time spent at the workout center.
- 07/28/2003 I am satisfied with the safety plans/procedures that we have in ED43
- 07/29/2003 I work in an office environment and dont have any chemical hazzards however the temperature in my office has been 80 degrees for the last two months, I would consider that a safey hazzard. I have a trouble ticket called in but no one ever came by.
- 07/29/2003 My only concern with openly discussing injuries and illnesses in the workplace is loss of privacy. I have heard of unfortunate accidents being discussed in safety meetings across the Center, in such a way that sometimes appears to me to be disrespectful to the person involved. We need to be careful not to appear to ridicule or vilify victims.
- 07/30/2003 NASA employee committment to safety is stronger than ever and should not be underestimated.
- 07/30/2003 I marked items 10 (Question 20 on 90 Question Survey) and 14 (Question 28 on 90 Question Survey) as "disagree", regarding safe and healthful environment, because of chronic stress associated with an imbalance between resources and workload. Taking time off or stress breaks does not decrease the workload. I suggest SHE should establish guidelines for managing this balance. I don't think management tracks any metrics associated with this balance. I use things like risk management, resource loaded schedules and action item lists, and daily/weekly reporting of resource vs workload issues to customers and management. SHE needs to think about playing a value-added role in this.
- 07/30/2003 live long and prosperous and enjoy life to its grand fullest and many times the most living moments of our lives is when we living on the edge.
- 07/30/2003 FD21 has emphasis on safety training pertaining to job tasks and performance as well as generic hazards that are not specifically job related. This is an enhancement to earlier concentration on generic hazards such as slips, trips and falls, and ergonomics (these are not neglected, I believe they are annual topics).



## Occupational Safety PEP Comments for Employees



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- 07/30/2003 Safety has become more action and less lip service. Nice to see the improvement.
- 07/30/2003 I am satisfied that sufficient attention is being given to safety. I hear less about health.
- 07/30/2003 The water in the drinking fountains tastes horrible--like dirt. I don't believe it is safe to drink, and I have been told that it has been tested and found to be safe, but I just don't believe it. More people would drink water if we had decent water.
- 07/30/2003 Is it a good thing we have a very heavy focus on personal safety such that it overwhelms mission safety? No. But this is exactly what has happened in an effort to increase the productivity of employees (it's not about safety, but money). If NASA truly cared about the employee, then they wouldn't have gone to the unsafe acts, instead of the unsafe conditions. Now we are getting to the point where going after the people, mostly the ones that were victims of an unsafe act/condition, which is contrary to the original emphasis of the safety effort. Hypocrites! People are guilted into not reporting accidents to meet safety goals. Where is the caring or health safety here? They only state that doesn't lie is on the job deaths. That hasn't changed in years. But the safe incidents have come down in industry due to manipulation, coercion, and guilt. The reason it hasn't gone down in government is job security, though there are efforts to try to change that aspect as well. We will only reach safety "perfection" by becoming liars and an uncaring organization. Being safety conscious is good. But don't over-emphasize it such that it becomes a weakness.
- 07/30/2003 It is my belief that the Building Safety Manager should be present for the majority of the safety walkthroughs.
- 07/30/2003 The low ratings I gave for the 'healthy environment' of my work area were based on lack of cleanliness in Bldg 4610. Lots of dust, roaches, etc. cause allergy problems. Floors are only cleaned in the open areas, blinds are not cleaned often enough, push plates/handles on bathroom doors are not wiped down with cleaning solutions, hand rails in stairways aren't wiped down regularly.
- 07/31/2003 Safety is still number ONE here at MSFC and NASA. Like all elements of life, some improvements can still be made; however, I think safety is a personal responsibility and the training at NASA has also improved the quality and safety for my family and personal life.  
Vann R. Jones
- 07/31/2003 Water quality continues to be an issue in building 4202, as well as the 4200 complex. Brown water in the fountains and bathroom facilities is unacceptable. Employees are currently supplying their own drinking water through joining water clubs to have bottled water delivered at their own expense. Industry would never consider this health issue to be met at the expense of their employees, nor should the Government!
- 07/31/2003 I see the need for more emphasis on system safety, we have the industrial safety at just about the right level
- 07/31/2003 What about area defibrillator, only one at Medical Center is not adequate for response time.



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- 08/05/2003 Our organization makes a commitment to understanding MSFC Safety and health issues, and readily makes our employee workforce cognizant of new updates effecting our work environment and the MSFC. It has become a cultural behavior for us, and one that is positive.
- 08/07/2003 Safety is the number one priority in our organization.
- 08/08/2003 Many of the statements to which I responded "Don't Know" might indeed be true but I have not personally seen evidence.
- 08/08/2003 My time spent on reviewing the MSFC SHE Program Refresher Training pages could have been better spent in other areas. There was too much material here, and to some extent, was a waste of time.
- 08/08/2003 The safety program is adequate to the point of being quite annoying.



# Occupational Safety PEP Comments for Managers

Monday, August 25, 2003



## Marshall Space Flight Center

- 07/15/2003 My selection associated with contractor safety is based on my general impression and not necessarily specific data as I do not receive that type information. Also this does not include facilities contractors; that is the ones who are subcontracted out to do electrical and mechanical facilities type work.
- 07/22/2003 Personally I think the center has an excellent safety and health program. It could be improved through adequate funding to address all safety and occupational health needs and perhaps better communication and training but, all in all, it's a very good program "as is."
- 07/25/2003
- 1.) First aid kits are not available, and in fact are forbidden in MSFC work areas. It is understood that this is intended to encourage injured personnel to report to medical professionals - however, it still does not makes good nor reasonable common sense!
  - 2.) Element I: Safety committees are not establishes in ALL divisions and branches at MSFC, therefore a Level 5 is not a legitimate score/response for this element.
  - 3.) Element I: In addition, budgets do not adequately address the expeditious repair or remediation of all facility safety hazards, because there does not exist a separate and distinct budget to make these repairs, because the repair coats are the responsibility of the organization that occupies the facility, not the MSFC institution.
  - 4.) Element VI: Safety inspections are NOT conducted on at least a quarterly basis with certified Safety and Health personnel, these inspections are conducted at least annually at MSFC - therefore a Level 5 for this element is not legitimately possible.
  - 5.) Element VII and VI: Open hazards are not consistently expeditiously closed due to budgetary constraints (also see item 3).
  - 6.) Element XIV: Not sure if emergency medical care is regularly available on-site for all production shifts as required in response of a Level 5 provided for this element.
- 07/28/2003 Proliferation of safety and health committees, groups, and oversight boards along with new acronyms and web sites makes the whole safety program confusing and cumbersome. So many different messages are put forth about job safety, flight safety, personal safety, health and welfare that the main messages get lost.