

U.S. Geological Survey Nation-wide Activities DOI Safety Week – April 5-9, 2004

USGS employees had various opportunities to increase awareness and develop skills to improve safety and health during DOI Safety & Health Awareness Week. Many locations selected a day during the week to observe as Safety Day 2004. Both hands-on demonstrations and formal classroom instruction was provided at the Headquarters, Regional centers, as well as field locations with few employees. Activities included specialized training and information dissemination conducted by employees, volunteers, and by public and private organizations. During Safety Week 2004, managers and supervisors supported promotional activities and encouraged employee participation at all levels. These efforts demonstrated to our employees our commitment to employee safety and health.

Provided below is a summary of the many safety week activities at the Headquarters, Regional and Field locations.

Western Region Activities

Menlo Park

- First Aid Training April 6 & 7
- CPR/Defibrillator Training April 6 & 7
- Wilderness First Aid Training April 7 & 8
- Safety and ergonomics vendor fair April 9
- Basic Firearms Safety Training on April 9, 12, and 13.

Terry Fries traveled to Flagstaff and Tucson to give lab safety training and supervisor safety training. Bill Fitzpatrick traveled to Columbia River Research Lab for an assistance visit.

Washington District (Tacoma)

- First Aid, CPR/Defibrillator Training

Cascades Volcano Observatory (Vancouver)

- First Aid, CPR/Defibrillator Training

Idaho District (Boise)

- First Aid, CPR/Defibrillator Training
- Defensive Driving

Pacific Island Ecosystems Research Center (Hawaii)

- Fire Extinguisher Training
- OEP Drills
- Field Rescue Training
- Wilderness First Aid Training

Eastern Region Activities

Indiana District

- Down-loaded and color-printing the "ALWAYS ALERT - NOBODY HURT" message. These were posted at the main employee entry doors near the sign-in books and at the rear doors where most employees access our truck-lot and leave for the field. Of course one was posted on the safety bulletin board that usually gets some new information several times per month.
- A contractor who is certified by the American Heart Association taught CPR-refresher to most employees in the district.
- A reminder about safe and responsible operation of motor vehicles was issued to all employees in the district by email. The text of that email:
- Defensive driving through the "Coaching the Experienced Driver" program was taught by the Indiana District CDSPC for several new-hires.
- The USGS program for Employee-Right-to-Know was taught to several new-hires.
- A "New Employee Orientation" with the focus on safety-related issues was administered to a new part-time, term employee.

Costal and Marine Geology Team in Woods Hole, Massachusetts

- Updated all first aid kits throughout buildings (fire extinguishers and safety lighting recently updated).
- Arranged annual Ship Safety Course for USGS employees. This course is sponsored every spring by WHOI and covers ship board safety, fire prevention, abandon ship activities - and offers a 'dunk' in the WH harbor in an emersion suit replicating 'real-life' scenarios. We recommend this course for all seagoing personnel. It has been a huge success!
- Updated First Responder lists as well as current OEP, COOP, and CHP's for both the Marine Operations Facility, as well as for all Quissett locations.
- Prepared for EMS walk through/audit in June.
- Encouraged and remind all WHSC employees to complete USGS Safety Course directives.
- Re-located and placed all AED's on office walls in more centralized location for better visualization with regards to daily battery monitoring

- Assessed/repaired/updated shop tools and machinery to ensure all are in safe working condition.
- Implemented a safety procurement program for the field season which will include a general stock of PFD's, sunblock, safety glasses, foul weather clothing, as well as quality built polarized sunglasses for those who will be working on the water during the spring and summer months.
- Updated and maintain master list of all USGS MOCC WHSC motorized vessel operators, and work with WHOI and ECU to establish joint certification criteria so that USGS may operate other institution's vessels.

West Virginia District

In support of Safety and Health Week, the West Virginia District plans the following:

Monday and Tuesday (May 10, 11) were set aside for safety topics with Wed/Thurs devoted to Quarterly District Project Reviews. As part of quarterly project reviews each project chief presents a safety overview related to their projects- - any concerns, special safety equipment needed, or safety training is discussed. Friday has been set aside as a safety clean-up day will all employees cleaning up the Dunbar Street warehouse, adjacent to District office space. A District Safety Council Meeting took place during this same week.

List of safety topics discussed include:

- Kick off by District Chief discussing the District Continuation of Operation Plan and overview of the District Emergency Procedures document
- Short computer overview session since majority of staff will be present
- Ergonomic talk (tentative) if a vendor can be located
- Cell phone safety
- Seat belt safety for adults/infants
- Discussion on slips/trips/falls
- Vehicle upkeep- - servicing, repair bills, cleaning, etc
- Field hygiene and summer work hazards
- HazCom presentation
- Highway traffic control talk (tentative) if vendor can be located

Pennsylvania District

- The "Safety Guide for Supervisors" (Fact Sheet OMS-SEMB 6) and the full report were distributed to all supervisors of the Pennsylvania District. Ted Buckwalter, CDSPC Pennsylvania District, will lead a discussion concerning the Safety Guide during the next Senior Staff meeting.
- Jamie McCoy, Tom Ruby, and Anthony Spehar of the Pittsburgh office on April 16 demonstrated safe boating practices and safe data collection procedures to 200 secondary school students participating in the Student Research Symposium

sponsored by Creek Connections of the Center for Economic and Environmental Development of Allegheny College.

- New compact cell phones purchased by the Pa. District Safety account were distributed to many field staff. The new phones weighing only several ounces are easy to carry during field activities especially when away from vehicles. A primary purpose of the phones is to facilitate emergency calls for our staff or others needing assistance during routine fieldwork and especially during flood events. The cost of the cell phone plan for the District is about \$15,000 per year.
- Orientation to laboratory, field, and office safety policies was provided to Heather Eggleston, a new Biological Science Technician of the New Cumberland office, by Mike Bilger, Biological Laboratory Director, and Dennis Low, Pa. Safety Committee member.
- Several staff including a new employee completed the AAA Driver Improvement Program entitled "Managing Visibility, Time, and Space." In a few days, several more staff will complete the course and the Pa. District will meet the 3-year requirement for Defensive Driving training.

Central Region Federal Center (Denver) Activities

- April 6, 2004 - A Public Health Mini Health Fair was be held in Building 25 from 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM (*To include Height, Weight, and Glucose Screening*)
- April 7, 2004 - Aviation Management Training For Supervisors was be presented in Building 20, Tweto Room from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM. (*To include DOI Aviation Safety & Accident Prevention Programs; Procurement of Aviation Services; Documentation of Payment Procedures; Responsibilities to Employees; & Risk Management*)
- April 7, 2004 - A presentation on "Personal Safety Through Awareness" was be presented by Chuck Blome in Building 20, Eugene Ford Conference Room from 1:30 PM to 2:45 PM. (*Personal awareness can be applied to every facet of our daily lives, it can help us to live without fear, combat everyday stresses, and educates us to society's potential danger. In this lecture, you will learn ways to: (1) enhance your personal awareness; (2) read non-verbal forms of communication including gestures, postures, and facial expressions, (3) deal with persons showing signs of anxiety, (4) de-escalate potentially-dangerous situations involving verbal and physical aggression; and (5) understand and deal with workplace violence, road rage, and even street gang activity*).
- April 8, 2004 - Dave Johncox presented a class on Basic Aviation Safety. It will be held in Building 20, Tweto Room from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM. (*This class covers safety while working in and around helicopters and fixed wing aircraft. The Office of Aircraft Services (OAS) requires this class every three years for all DOI employees who use noncommercial aircraft in the performance of their duties. This class meets the requirements of Interior Department 352 DM 2.5B (1)*)
- April 8, 2004 - A Public Health Mini Health Fair will be held in Building 810 from 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM. (*To include Height, Weight, and Glucose Screening*)

- Iowa District: all hands meeting, District chief distributed special electronic message to staff.
- Minnesota District: Gary Owen from the Great Iowa Lakes Water Safety Council held a Cold Water/Ice safety course (8 hours) for anybody who works on the ice in our district. The Minnesota Safety Council conducted a four-hour Defensive Driving course. Hazcom training course. Life preserver inspections were completed. A final wrap-up was held to again go thru the recommendations set forth in your Safety Review. Also, upgrading our JHAs was discussed and many questions arose with this topic.
- Montana: Reviewed last Safety Review with staff.
- New Mexico: Safety Committee meeting
- South Dakota: At the All Staff meeting, Mark Hughes from the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigations will give a special presentation on Clandestine Drug Labs.

National Center Activities

The National Center promoted the USGS Safety Awareness Day activities on April 7th, 2004. Approximately 50 exhibitors offering safety, environmental and occupational health information and services, inclusive of health screening was provided to National Center employees. Over 1500 people attended the event. Several door prizes were also presented to participants. Some of the activities and topics included:

- AED Presentation
- Safety and Health Equipment Demonstrations
- Emergency Preparedness by the American Red Cross
- Fairfax County Fire and Rescue
- Stress Evaluation and Monitoring
- Employee Screening Services (Diabetes/Blood Pressure/Cholesterol)
- Fairfax County Health Department
- Fairfax County Recycling and Hazardous Waste
- Nutritional Counseling
- Employee Wellness