

NASA-LaRC SAFETY NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE OFFICE OF SAFETY AND FACILITY ASSURANCE, SEMA

April 1994

LaRC Fire Extinguisher Training

It is the policy of the Langley Research Center, not to require our employees to use portable fire extinguishers unless the employee has been properly trained in the use and handling of these extinguishers. If there are employees interested in this training, please have your Facility Safety Head or Facility Coordinator coordinate this with the Fire Department Dispatcher at Ext. 45600. This training may be included in the annual fire survey and drill for your facility.

Chemical Safety

With the new attitudes of sharing and working together among the various Langley Divisions, there is a surge in the number of chemical compounds and other hazardous materials traveling between facilities. Employees are reminded that transferring of chemicals between organizational elements requires the use of NASA Langley Form 44B, "Hazardous Material-Reissue Card". Proper use and an example of the card are explained in Langley Handbook 1710.12, "Potentially Hazardous Materials". Employees are also reminded that all chemicals received, regardless if they are purchased or free samples, must have Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) with them and placed in the facility MSDS book. All chemicals received must also be included into the facility chemical inventory to comply with federal safety and environmental regulations.

Give Fingers a Helping Hand

Your hands and fingers are irreplaceable tools. You use them for eating, driving, painting, hammering, typing, climbing, lifting - the list is almost endless. Because you do use them so often, your hands and fingers are prime targets for injury. Almost one in four work-related injuries happens to hands and fingers.

You can guard against these injuries by following

three important guidelines:

1. Become aware of potential dangers.
2. Know and develop safe work habits.
3. Use the proper personal protective equipment.

At work, your hands and fingers can be exposed to such potential dangers as mechanical hazards, environmental hazards, and contact with irritating substances.

Mechanical hazards are present wherever you incorrectly use machinery in the workplace. Cuts can occur when hard or sharp-edged objects create a shearing action. Any sharp pointed object can puncture flesh and possibly lead to serious infection. Around rotating machinery, a shaft or blade can catch, cut or mangle. Wheels, rollers, or gears that spin inward create a nip point and can grab a finger or shirt sleeve and cause injury. Hands and fingers can also be crushed or pinched severely by two solid objects coming together.

To avoid mechanical hazards, you should always be alert around machinery and keep hands and fingers away from moving parts. Never remove or tamper with safety devices such as guards. Disconnect power when adjusting, cleaning or repairing machinery. Use the Red Tag procedure to alert others to the status of the machine. Avoid wearing loose-fitting clothing, ties or jewelry when operating a machine. Always use the correct hand tool for the job.

To all of you who know how important it is to safeguard your hands and fingers by following common-sense safety procedures, we say -
THUMBS UP !