

# NASA-LaRC SAFETY NEWSLETTER

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## **AIR TRANSPORTATION LUGGAGE PRECAUTIONS**

A recent article in a government safety flyer concerned an employee who brought souvenirs back from a trip. Souvenirs that could have cost him and his fellow airline passengers their lives.

The employee had taken a trip to Washington, D.C.. As he was packing for his return trip, he tossed two books of souvenir matches into his packed briefcase. At the airport, he checked his briefcase along with his other luggage.

When he arrived home and unpacked, he realized with horror that the matches had somehow ignited and burned part of the contents of his briefcase. The fire was contained only because the case was full and there was little air in it. If the case had been empty, there could have been quite a fire in the baggage hold.

An airplane isn't an automobile. In-flight variations in temperature and air pressure can cause some seemingly harmless items to leak and ignite. Because of this, the following precautions need to be followed;

- Don't carry matches and lighters in baggage - friction can ignite them.
- Don't carry flammable liquids such as; paints, fuels, solvents, adhesives or lighter refills - they may leak and cause a fire.
- Don't carry fireworks, signal flares and other explosives.

Bleaches, drain cleaners, many aerosols and solvents contain dangerous chemicals that can release toxic vapors and cause corrosion.

There are other items and substances you probably can't carry aboard a plane. If you have doubts about anything you want to take with you, call the airline or check at the ticket counter.

## **RABIES CONCERN AT LaRC**

It is not unusual for LaRC employees to see various forms of wildlife at the Center. Deer, rabbits, squirrels, turtles, raccoons, opossums and domestic cats are frequently observed by employees. These animals should instinctively flee when an encounter is made with a human. When an animal does not flee, or shows signs of aggressive or unusual behavior, caution should be exercised.

On August 26, a gray fox was encountered in the AIDF area. The fox was reluctant to move from the road and attempted to attack a vehicle. The fox was destroyed by security personnel and taken to the LAFB Veterinarian. Upon inspection of the animal, it was declared to be rabid.

The following precautions should be used by LaRC employees;

- Do not at any time leave feed outside for animals.
- If an animal exhibits unusual behavior, contact Safety at extension 47233 (4-SAFE).
- Do not ever attempt to pick up or assist any animal that seems to be injured or sick.