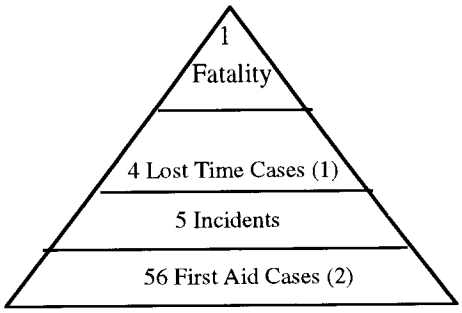
LaRC SAFETY HIGHLIGHTS
July 17, 2000

FY 2000 – Civil Servants



( ) = Number of new occurrences

OSHA Recordable Cases = Fatalities, Lost Time and Incidents
Incidents = Non-first aid medical cases which have less than 8 hours lost time

- The Center has been 10 days without a civil servant experiencing a Lost Time Injury (Record 251 days).
- LaRC Safety Information – When not being used for emergencies, the LaRC Cable Television Channel 11 shows safety awareness videos and other pertinent safety information, which may be viewed, from television monitors located in facilities throughout the Center.
- The Center experienced a lost time accident on Wednesday, July 6, 2000, at approximately 10:20 a.m. when an employee assigned to the Atmospheric Sciences Competency (Building 1250), leaned back in an office chair and fell in a backward direction hitting his head and neck on a bookcase located behind the chair, sustaining a head contusion and neck strain. An investigation was conducted by the LaRC Fire Chief and the Facility Coordinator who determined some of the bolts, which hold the chair seat to the pedestal, had sheared off causing the chair to break when the employee leaned backward. A Safety Alert will be issued to Center Facility Safety Heads and Facility Coordinators to inspect chairs of this type to prevent recurrence. The employee returned to work on Monday, July 10, 2000, with two lost workdays incurred.
- The following first aid cases involving a civil servant were reported as follows:
  - A Structures and Materials Competency employee stepped down from a work surface striking his head on an I-beam sustaining a scalp laceration.
  - An Aerodynamics, Aerothermodynamics, and Acoustics Competency employee using a utility knife sustained a finger laceration.
- On July 10, 2000, a 16-Foot Transonic Tunnel technician was using the freight elevator to transport a model cart from the second floor to the first. After off-loading the cart on the first floor, the technician closed the elevator inner and outer doors. Immediately upon closure of the outer door, the elevator began to move without a command by the technician. The technician heard a loud noise, the building shook, and the elevator stopped. There were no injuries. An initial investigation has found broken bolts, damage to guide rail mounts, possible damage to the guide rails, the guide shoes, the platform undercarriage, and to the hydraulic cylinders. Because the potential damage to the elevator will exceed $25K, this incident is being reported as a Type C incident. An investigation has begun.
- At approximately 11:50 a.m. on July 12, 2000, a model/sting combination attached to the rotary balance at the 20-Foot Vertical Spin Tunnel (Building 645) was damaged when it contacted the tunnel wall. The initial investigation indicates an inadvertent release of the roll brake, which allowed the model/sting combination to rotate from the tunnel centerline and contact the wall. Initial indications are that the balance is damaged beyond repair and the model sustained minor repairable damage. Additionally, the tare bag structure that is used to surround the model/sting combination during air off operations was significantly damaged. Initial damage estimates are $75K, which makes this a Type C Mishap. A team has been formed to investigate the mishap.