

Dear friends,

In this special newsletter, we would like to emphasize the importance of our new collection of lectures from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), accessible at <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/NIOSH/ppts.htm>

NIOSH has been one of the key supporters of the Supercourse in the past two years (<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/>). NIOSH conducts outreach in occupational safety and health to provide employers and employees with knowledge on personal protective equipment selection, use, and expectations to improve workplace safety and health. NIOSH has several sector and cross-sector programs to better protect the health and safety of millions of working men and women. One of its cross-sector programs is the Personal Protective Technology (PPT) Program, managed by the National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory (NPPTL), located in Pittsburgh, PA. The National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory was created in response to a recognized need for improved personal protective equipment (PPE) and greater focus on research of personal protective technologies.

NPPTL conducts scientific research, develops guidance and authoritative recommendations, disseminates information, and responds to requests about workplace health hazard evaluations. One of the key areas of NPPTL's research and efforts is the respiratory certification and evaluation program. In this program, NPPTL conducts testing procedures on respirators and certifies (or approves) only those that pass the strict federal safety requirements and mark as NIOSH approved. NIOSH will only allow a respirator manufacturer to be labeled as NIOSH approved and use the NIOSH name and logo on their products if they abide by the established standards of quality and performance to ensure that their products meet the NIOSH standard. This respirator certification program exists to increase the level of worker protection from various airborne chemicals and vapors.

Other personal protective equipment that NPPTL researches and focuses on include chemical-resistant clothing, hearing protectors, gloves, safety goggles and glasses, hard hats, sensors to detect hazardous substances, and communication devices used for safety deployment of emergency workers.

NPPTL researches these areas of PPE in order to examine exposures to inhalation hazards, dermal hazards, and any other hazardous environmental threat within an occupational setting. In addition to respirator protection and PPE, NPPTL also focuses on their outreach efforts to stakeholders who rely heavily of PPT. These stakeholders include firefighters, first responders, healthcare workers and miners.

We also want to emphasize one of the key lectures in the collection "Debunking the Myths of N95 Respirator Use" by Roland BerryAnn, Pat Wiltanger, and Jackie KraH. This lecture is designed to deliver scientific facts about the use of respirators and address some of the myths associated with their use. Did you know that selecting a respirator is somewhat similar to shopping for shoes? When a person goes into a store to buy a new pair of shoes, that customer will typically try the shoe on before purchasing. That's because not all shoes, or shoe types, fit everyone the same. Respirators are the same way. NIOSH has seen in the research and tests that they conducted, that different types of respirators fit different face shapes on an individual basis.

Please visit this lecture at

<http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec51081/024.htm>

For more information about NIOSH please contact Jaclyn Krah isa3@cdc.gov

"Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity". (WHO)

Best Regards,

Ron, Faina, Eugene, Francois, Nicolas, Ismail, Vint, Kawkab, Ali, Olga, Maria, Eman, Kyle, Aiyem, Rob, Ohanyido, Nabil, Mita, Olga, Gil, Eric Sholpan, Maria, Shalkar, Ghassan