



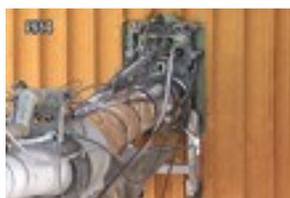
countdown

March 12, 2009

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Hydrogen leak scrubs Discovery launch attempt

◆ **Discovery Stays on Pad:** The STS-119 launch was scrubbed at 2:37 p.m. due to a leak in the hydrogen vent line coming out of the external tank (see photo below). The launch team drained the external tank and today will explore



the cause of the leak and determine repairs. Managers and engineers are looking at

potential repair options and Discovery's launch attempt opportunities. Currently, Discovery's launch is no earlier than Sunday at 7:43 p.m.

◆ **Constellation Update:** NASA has completed a successful test firing of the igniter that will be used to start the Ares I rocket first stage motor. The March 10 test paves the way for the initial ground test of the Ares I first stage later this year.

The Ares I igniter is an enhanced version of the flight-proven igniter used in the space shuttle's solid rocket boosters. The igniter takes advantage of upgraded liner and insulation materials that have improved thermal properties which protect the igniter's case from the burning solid propellant. The new igniter is approximately 18 inches in diameter and 36 inches long, secured in the forward segment of a five-segment booster.

■ **KSC All-American Picnic Survey** — Now is your opportunity to critique the KSC All-American Picnic. Please

take the time to visit the picnic Web site, at <http://kscpicnic.ksc.nasa.gov/>, and provide your comments for ongoing improvement! If you experience any difficulties with the survey, please contact Laurie Brown at 867-4166.



■ **NASA Parkway Road Repair** — Eastbound NASA Parkway between D & E Avenues will be reduced to one lane of traffic March 16 -24. From 8:30

a.m. to 2:30 p.m., the following additional changes will be in effect: All eastbound traffic will be detoured to one westbound lane, the speed limit will be reduced to 35 mph, and the intersections of D and E Avenues and NASA Parkway will be closed to all traffic. Please obey posted speed limit signs, be alert for new traffic patterns and use extra caution while driving near the construction zone.

■ **March 2009 Health Education Information Table** — This month's topic from the Health Education and Welfare Program is about mental health and coping with change. A person's mental health can be affected by environmental, economical, behavioral, biological, social and physiological factors. The ability to handle these various factors largely comes from how a person copes with change. Hence, coping with change is important to good mental health and change is certainly the only constant in today's society. This year's KSC mental health month packet covers concepts of change, coping with change and good characteristics of mental health.

Ares I igniter passes firing test

Staff members will disseminate mental health information from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. **today** at a table set up in the MFF Cafeteria.

In addition, the packet is posted under the "Monthly Health Topics" section of the HEWP Web site at:

<http://hewp.ksc.nasa.gov/mthly.cfm>. Hardcopies of the packet also will be available at all medical and fitness facilities.

■ **Mark Your Calendars** — Upcoming KEA events are listed below:

- April 8, 9-10:30 a.m., in the Training Auditorium, *Overview of Russian and U.S. spacesuits*
- April 14, 1-2 p.m., in the Training Auditorium, *Overview of the Space Transportation Planning Office*
- April 21, noon-1 p.m., in the Training Auditorium, *LETF Upgrades for Constellation*

Please send your questions and comments to KSC-Engineering-Academy@mail.nasa.gov. To view future listings, or video/PDF versions of past KEA events, please visit: <http://kea.ksc.nasa.gov/>.

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