



michoud messenger

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Safety & Health Fair a Success!

Under the slogan “Your Health is Your Greatest Wealth,” the Michoud Assembly Facility Safety and Health Fair was held Oct. 19. The fair provided health and safety education, exhibits, fitness assessments, safety demonstrations and health screenings open to all MAF employees. The focus of this year’s fair was to promote the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and remind the workforce that we should leave work everyday in better shape than when we arrived in the morning.

According to Dr. Juan Blanch Jr., M.D., medical director for NASA’s Michoud Assembly Facility, “One of the goals for this year’s fair is to increase awareness of the impact a person’s health has on their ability to maintain safe work practices. A pre-existing health condition or functional limitation, reduces an employee’s focus on their job which can lead to an increased chance of injury. By simply taking care of ourselves, we end up improving our productivity and reducing the chance for injury.”

With more than 750 Michoud employees visiting the fair, this year’s event was a tremendous success. The fair included 47 vendors from the region and featured notable healthcare businesses like Ochsner, Tulane Medical Center, Southern Surgical and Provance.

“This year our vendors provided many free services like massages and screenings for blood pressure, hearing, vision and prostate cancer. With the cost of health care today, it’s wonderful that we can make these services available to the Michoud workforce for free,” said Denise Younger, CORE employee and event planner.

“Don’t forget about the free Weight Loss BMI screening, Smoothie King and Folgers Coffee samples, as well as the free fire alarm batteries,” added fellow CORE employee and event planner, Shelia Mize.

More than 50 raffle items were given away over the course of the event, which lasted from 10:30a.m. to 2:30 p.m. USDA employees Krista Nguyen and Deidra Phillips left the fair with a pair of Saints tickets and National WW2 Museum tickets, respectively. But the big winners were the attendees in general -- who learned more about their own health and new ways to keep safe on the job.

The Michoud Assembly Facility Safety and Health Fair was planned and coordinated with representatives from the USDA NFC, Boeing, Lockheed Martin, The United States Coast Guard and Jacobs Technology’s MS-FOC Teammates.



Retired Engineer Remembers Saturn V



Richard Thorstenberg, a former Boeing employee, visited MAF Oct. 10 to tour the facility where he once worked. In 1962, Thorstenberg moved to Huntsville, Ala., to work on the S1C Stage. He designed the first part to be approved for the Saturn V: a regulator for its propulsion system. He later was transferred to Michoud to assist in the production support of the engines and the first stage of the Saturn V. Thorstenberg described working for NASA as a wonderful experience. "The NASA people were great," he said. "They were there to oversee the project and actually work with the contractor. If we saw something wrong, or a better way to do something, we would tell them and everyone would work to correct the problem."

N.O. East Clean Sweep



More than 100 volunteers and community leaders came together Oct. 15 to spruce up key corridors in New Orleans East. The event, led by New Orleans City Councilman Jon Johnson in conjunction with more than 50 organizations, was designed to help make the area attractive to retail and commercial development efforts. Thank you to the Jacobs Technology volunteers who worked the event and funded the fuel needed to power the mowers, trimmers and support vehicles.

SLS Stages Tour



On October 27th, members of the SLS Stages Team visited MAF to begin planning the manufacturing workflow of the SLS rocket.

9400 lb. Clam Bake



Michoud recently completed work on a part to be installed on the A-2 Test Stand at NASA's Stennis Space Center. The 9400 lb. "Clamshell" was brought to MAF in order to perform a stress relief heat treat in our large oven. The water-cooled Clamshell device was adapted for the J-2X engine's shorter nozzle and helps simulate high-altitude conditions for engine-start testing. The work, performed successfully by the MSFOC Test Labs, was done in collaboration with Stennis Test engineers.



Open to all who are ready for some fitness fun!

Dates: Tuesdays and Thursdays

Time: 4:30 - 5:30

Where: 351 East Cafeteria

Bring water and a hand towel. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes.

Letters from Leadership

Last month, Michoud experienced a big win with the Space Launch System (SLS) Program's announcement that MAF will serve as the build and integration site for the core stage, the upper stage and the avionics ring components that comprise the bulk of the rocket's design. Since the announcement, Michoud has been hard at work preparing to meet the challenges that lay ahead and I'd like to take a few moments to let you know about some of this activity.

Recently, the SLS Stages team visited MAF and they have been hard at work defining requirements and thinking through the many complex details that accompany such a monumental project. The team was here at Michoud to identify strategic objectives, plot key milestones and

identify potential constraints in light of the engineering progress being made on the rocket. MAF will continue to be responsive to the program's requests as we build an affordable, sustainable architecture for our country's desire to explore our solar system.

On Nov. 14, Michoud will host an SLS Industry Day for suppliers who are looking to grow their businesses and partner with the SLS Program. This presents a unique opportunity for MAF, as we are also looking to grow our manufacturing community through leasing some of our excess capacity to commercial business. By making our facility attractive to SLS suppliers, we can further reduce the operating cost of the facility and help place the SLS program on a stable, sustainable footing. I know you

will help MAF put our best foot forward, as we extend our own brand of "Southern hospitality" to our visitors.

Finally, the SLS program is generating an incredible amount of interest in the community and in the media. As a Michoud employee, we all have an opportunity to reach out to our friends and neighbors and let them know the benefits that a strong, stable Michoud workforce brings to the region. We work hard every day to maximize our value to the taxpayer, and together we can trumpet our many accomplishments.

— Steve Doering
Director, Michoud Assembly Facility

Lucky He Was Wearing His PPE, Right?



It's no secret that the work we do at MAF can be dangerous. Within our buildings are a multitude of machines, harmful chemicals,

and potentially dangerous environments. Because of this inherent danger, a great many efforts are made to ensure that all employees are protected while at work. There are plenty of training classes, safety audits, personal protection equipment (PPE) for every job, and a whole constellation of safety signs and messages posted throughout the facility.

While these are necessary and needed tools, all of this can be rendered useless because it is up to each individual to take a stand for safety. That means encouraging our coworkers to wear protective equipment, challenging unsafe strategies, and to be mindful that while it doesn't take much time to ensure safety, the consequences of not doing so can be devastating.

Twenty seven percent of the safety observations for August and September indicated a lack of or inadequate use of PPE. The MAF employee wearing

these safety glasses was not lucky. He made a conscious decision to protect himself when he put on his PPE. No one wants to be involved in an accident, and no one wants to see their friend hurt, so stand up for the things that keep us safe, commit to a Beyond Zero work strategy, and refuse to allow even one accident to occur. It only takes a minute, but the benefits will be life-long.



If this employee had not been wearing his PPE, this shard of metal would have gone straight into his eye.

Michoud Mission Success!



The Orion MPCV team performed the first of a series of parachute tests at Yuma Proving Grounds on Oct. 27th. The test article was deployed from a C-130 aircraft at 25,000 ft. using a sled that was built at Michoud which performed flawlessly. The photo shows the test article after it landed on the desert floor and the parachutes have been removed.

Thank You to All Our Veterans as We Celebrate on 11-11-11

"A veteran is someone who, at one point in his/her life wrote a blank check made payable to 'The United States of America' for an amount of 'up to and including my life'."

RoboEagles at State



Members of the Lake Forest Charter School's FIRST Robotics Team, The RoboEagles, present their research project to judges at the state tournament. Jacobs Technology sponsors the team financially and through Employee Mentoring as part of our Math and Science Outreach Innovation.

SLS Industry Day at MAF

November 14, 2011

Time: 12:30 pm - 5:00 pm

To participate please register at slsindustrydayatMAF.blogspot.com

For more information, contact:

Charla Pledger
carla.f.pledger@nasa.gov or
(256)544-8433

Chip Howat
carl.j.howat@nasa.gov or
(504)257-0478



National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Michoud Assembly Facility
13800 Old Gentilly Rd.
New Orleans, LA 70129
<http://maf.msfc.nasa.gov>

www.nasa.gov

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MAF COO: Robert Champion

Editors: Chip Howat and Angela Storey

Layout/Design: Shannon Jurado

Photographers: Steven Seipel and Eric Bordelon

