

On the Web

NCSE Promotes Science NCSEonline.org

The National Council for Science and the Environment (NCSE) wants to improve the scientific basis for environmental decision making. To achieve its goals, the council works closely with many communities that rely upon environmental knowledge to make and shape environmental decisions. The council focuses on the role of science but does not take positions on environmental issues themselves.

The council:

- promotes science for the environment;
- enhances programs at academic institutions;
- advances science-based ideas from diverse communities;
- communicates science-based information to society; and
- develops science solutions for environmental challenges.

For more information about NCSE, write to them at National Council for Science and the Environment, 1707 H Street N.W., Suite 200, Washington, D.C. 20006-3918, or call (202) 530-5810, or e-mail info@NCSEonline.org.



NSC Centers on Safety www.nsc.org

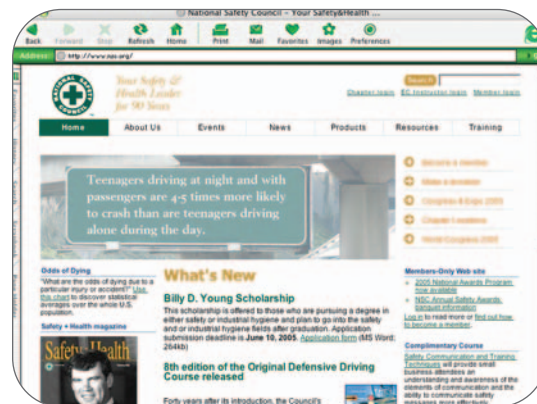
The National Safety Council's (NSC) Web site centers on safety, health, and environmental issues. It provides a search engine and news network with subject areas where experts answer questions. The NSC created the site to give system managers safety, health and environmental information, tools, and contacts.

The site offers a list of chemicals and provides vital information about them, such as where they can be found and what health effects they may have. The site also contains more than 1,000 searchable links related to safety, health, and the environment.

Some of the site's features include:

- A dedicated search engine for safety, health, and environmental topics,
- Injury Facts publication,
- Subject area experts to assist in safety, health, and environmental issues, and
- Organization contacts.

For more information, contact the NSC at 105 Connecticut Ave., N.W. Suite 1200, Washington, D.C. 20036. You also may call them at (202) 293-2270, ext. 463.



USGS Collects and Analyzes Water Quality Data water.usgs.gov/nawqa/

Since 1991, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) scientists with the National Water Quality Assessment Program (NAWQA) program have been collecting and analyzing data and information in more than 50 major river basins and aquifers across the nation. The goal is to develop long-term consistent and comparable information on streams, groundwater, and aquatic ecosystems to support sound management and policy decisions. The NAWQA program is designed to answer these questions:

1. What is the condition of our nation's streams and groundwater?
2. How are these conditions changing over time?
3. How do natural features and human activities affect these conditions?

For more information, contact the NAWQA headquarters at (703) 648-5716, or e-mail them at nawqa_whq@usgs.gov.

www.nesc.wvu.edu

NEETF Explains CCRs

www.waterqualityreports.org/index.html

The National Environmental Education and Training Foundation's (NEETF) Web site, "What's in the water? NEETF's Guide to Consumer Confidence Reports on Drinking Water Quality" tells consumers all about what's in these annual reports.

Each year, water systems across the country must prepare consumer confidence reports (CCR), sometimes called water quality reports, to explain what substances have been found in drinking water and whether the water is safe to drink. This Web site provides con-

sumers and professionals with supplementary information on CCRs. The primary purpose is to inform and educate civic leaders, health professionals, environmental and consumer groups, journalists, and others to better understand the reports, and to be able to answer questions about a CCR.

The U.S. is one of the few nations in the world that consistently enjoys high-quality drinking water from the tap. But no system is perfect and local differences in tap water quality can be significant.

The site also offers fact sheets about common drinking water contaminants and information about drinking water treatment, sources, and regulations.

For more information, call NEETF at (202) 833-2933. Write to 1707 H Street, NW, Ste 900, Washington, D.C. 20006-3915.

EPA Provides Laboratory Certification Manual

www.epa.gov/OGWDW/certlab/labfront.html

The *Manual for the Certification of Laboratories Analyzing Drinking Water* can be found in its entirety on this site. Since 1978, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has required that states with primacy provide certified laboratories for their drinking water systems. This manual outlines the drinking water laboratory certification program for laboratories performing drinking water analyses for compliance with regulations issued according to the Safe Drinking Water Act, including the procedures a laboratory must follow and the criteria a laboratory must meet to be certified to analyze drinking water compliance samples.

For more information, contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

ATSDR Keeps Toxic Substances in Check

www.atsdr.cdc.gov

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) helps keep the public healthy by assessing waste sites, providing health consultations about specific hazardous substances, maintaining health surveillance and registries, responding to emergency releases of hazardous substances, conducting applied research in support of public health assessments, developing information and disseminating it, and educating and training people about the implications of hazardous substances.

For more information, call ATSDR toll free at (888) 422-8737.

NTP Commits to Using Best Science

ntp-server.niehs.nih.gov

The National Toxicology Program (NTP) evaluates agents of public health concern by developing and applying tools of modern toxicology and molecular biology. The program maintains an objective, science-based approach in dealing with critical issues in toxicology and is committed to using the best science available to prioritize, design, conduct, and interpret its studies.

The Secretary of Health and Human Services established this program to coordinate toxicology research and testing activities about potentially toxic chemicals.

NTP provides information to the public, and regulatory and research agencies. The program also strengthens the science base in toxicology.

For more information, contact NTP's Liaison and Scientific Review Office for answers to general questions at P.O. Box 12233, MD A3-01, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709; or call them at (919) 541-0530.

