



GIPSA News

A newsletter for the employees of the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

October 2005

Timeline to Recovery: Coping with Katrina and Rita

Mack Manis, Washington, DC

For the past 4 weeks, the nation has stood transfixed as the combined forces of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita destroyed New Orleans and numerous Gulf coast communities, and displaced over a half million people. Two of GIPSA's largest field offices and several sub-offices were in the paths of these killer storms. Here's a brief summary of what happened to those offices and their employees.

Saturday, August 27. Hurricane Katrina is classified as a Category 3 storm. The projected landfall is now New Orleans; yet residents go to bed thinking the hurricane will hit the Panhandle. The forecast is for storm surge flooding 2-4 feet above normal tide levels.

With Hurricane Katrina bearing down on the city, GIPSA closes the New Orleans Field Office, places all employees on administrative leave, and urges them to comply with local evacuation orders.

Monday, August 29. At 3 a.m., New Orleans' 17th Street Canal floodwall breaches, long before Katrina made landfall. The Army Corps of Engineers now believe a barge crashed through the Industrial

Canal floodwall sometime Monday morning, accelerating flooding that began before dawn.

Wednesday, August 31. GIPSA sets up an Operations Center in Washington to coordinate the search for employees and work with the Department and other agencies.

Thursday, September 1. GIPSA locates more than 40 NOLA employees, and the search is still on. **Josh Watson**, area chief, New Orleans Field Office, who evacuated to the Houston area, begins working in the League City Field Office as the con-

tact person for all New Orleans employees who evacuated to Texas.

Friday, September 2. **John Shropshire**, manager, New Orleans Field Office, makes it to the field office (which is located in Destrehan—a New Orleans suburb) and finds little storm damage, but no power or water.

Only 42 of the approximately 175 employees (full-time, part-time, and intermittent) who work out of the

*Continued, see **Timeline**
on page 4.*

Emergency Leave Transfer Program

If you want to donate annual leave to the Emergency Leave Transfer Program (ELTP) for victims of the hurricanes, you may do so via OPM Form 1638, which is on the web at: www.aphis.usda.gov/mrpbs/forms/opm/opm1638.pdf.

Please note: only annual leave may be donated; it may be donated in 1 hour increments only; and there is no cap on the amount that may be donated.

Please fax completed forms to the MRP POC, Cindy Hadlich, HRO-LCU-Minneapolis, MN, on fax # 612-370-2361.

Employees affected by the hurricanes will be able to apply to be participants in the ELTP at a later date. You will be advised of the date for applying for the leave as soon as the Department provides guidance.

Names in the News

PERSONNEL

Anita Heckenbach has joined the staff of the Field Management Division, where she will assume responsibility for the administration of the QAQC Program.

Sharon Lathrop is the new program analyst in the Office of Director, Technical Services Division (TSD). **Sharon** will be responsible for establishing performance measurement programs, and coordinating ISO and Continuance of Operations activities for the Center.

Caroline Thorpe is the newest member of the GIPSA Training Staff. **Caroline** comes to GIPSA from the Agricultural Marketing Service. She will be working with AgLearn, online training, and employee development.

Effective October 2, 2005, Field Management Division's Data and

Information Analysis Branch (DIAB) was abolished. The branch's two employees, **Karen Guagliardo** and **Beth Hayden**, are now part of the Office of the Director, along with all former DIAB program responsibilities.

LEAVE DONATION

Joan Danielson, economist in the P&SP Western Regional Office (Denver), has been approved for the leave transfer program. **Joan** is currently undergoing difficult radiation and chemotherapy treatment as she continues her battle with cancer. She has exhausted all of her leave during previous cancer treatments. Please consider donating some leave to Joan. Your donation will help make a very difficult time a little easier for **Joan**. To donate annual or restored annual leave to **Joan**, please complete form AD-1043, and either fax it or mail it (not both) to: USDA APHIS MRPBS HRD, Attn: LCT, Butler Square 5th Floor, 100 North 6th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55403, FAX: 612-370-2361. Form AD-1043 can be found on the web at: www.aphis.usda.gov/mrpbs/forms/payforms.html

AWARDS

Richard Blew and **Beverly Cook**, grain marketing specialists, TSD, received spot awards for outstanding contributions to uncovering sources of variation and providing a means to control the laboratory rice shelling and milling process.

Nelson Buck, Field Management Division, Washington, DC, received a spot award for enhancing the Peru/U.S. rice standards comparison report by providing excellent graphic displays of kernel length-to-width ratio requirements for U.S. and Peruvian rice.

Valerie Collins, physical scientist technician, and **Terri Liberty**, administrative assistant, TSD, received spot awards for their continual efforts at process improvement, and their dedication to ensuring TSD's ISO-registered programs receive international recognition.

Janine Goodson, budget analyst, TSD, received a spot award for her diligence in making a smooth transition to a new accounting system, creating positive working relationships with ERS and APHIS, and continuing efforts to work more efficiently.

Vicki Lacefield, Field Management Division, Washington, DC, received a spot award for preparing a thorough report for the Office of International Affairs that compared U.S. and Peruvian rice standards. The report provided very technical information comparisons in a format that was easy to understand.

Sharon Lathrop, grain marketing specialist, TSD, received a spot award in recognition of her initiative, self-motivation, continuance of improving processes, and outstanding customer service.

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on page 5.*

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“Equipment Check Testing Guy” Retires

Ruth Goff, Mike Eustrom, and Beverly Cook, Technical Services Division

After 29 years of dedicated service to GIPSA and 33 years of total Federal service, **Ritch Blew**, a name synonymous with equipment check testing, entered into the next, more enjoyable phase of life—retirement—beginning October 1, 2005.

Ritch has served as one of the key Agency quality control specialists for the past 17 years, with responsibility for overseeing the national equipment check testing program. Those who know and worked with **Ritch** value his accumulated knowledge of the more traditional laboratory equip-

ment; appreciate the objective, orderly, and thorough manner in which he researches equipment-related problems and the technical assistance he offers to repair or improve equipment performance; and are grateful for the understanding and patient demeanor he consistently displays.

In recent years, his skill and experience proved extremely beneficial as the Agency began its evaluation of alternative rice milling and shelling equipment. One such evaluation led to the approval of the GrainMan rice miller and sheller, which provided a

much-awaited, comparably reliable alternative to the conventional McGill equipment. His investigative efforts also played a role in exposing critical rice equipment standardization and maintenance inadequacies, as well as sample processing inconsistencies which caused unacceptable intra/inter-market variations in milling yield results. As a result, measures are currently being put in place that will enable rice inspection offices to better control their laboratory milling and shelling processes and provide customers with more accurate and consistent results. He has greatly contributed to the success of the equipment check testing program.

Ritch traveled a long road to reach and hold this important QC position. He began his career as a GS-3 clerk-typist in the Kansas City Field Office. From there, he worked his way through the ranks, working as a sampler, grader, protein specialist, and BAR member, before becoming the “equipment guy.” He has been an exemplary employee, a great co-worker, and will be greatly missed.

Ritch is looking forward to having more time to pursue his interest in genealogy, archery, traveling, and enjoyable times with his wife **Sue**, who will be retiring from teaching within the next year. We wish them the best in the coming years.

Christopher Gray Retires

Deborah Shipman, Washington, DC

On October 3, 2005, Christopher Gray, senior marketing specialist, Western Regional Office, will retire after 31 ½ years of government service.

Christopher started his career with USDA in March 1974 as a meat inspector, Food Safety Inspection Service. In 1978, he accepted a Packers and Stockyards Programs (P&SP) marketing specialist position in Portland, Oregon. During 1981 through 1986, Christopher was transferred to various P&SP locations in North Brunswick, New Jersey; Lancaster, Pennsylvania; and Memphis, Tennessee.

In 1999, Christopher was later transferred to the Trade Practices Unit (TPU), Western Regional Office during P&SP’s reorganization. He worked with Harry Schaaf, TPU Supervisor, on compliance issues and enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards Act and Regulations. He has also provided program direction and technical supervision to P&SP’s employees. Christopher has conducted hundreds of investigations, trained numerous new employees, and served on numerous special project task forces.

Christopher has been married for 28 years and plans to retire with wife, Kap Pun. His retirement plans include salt and fresh water fishing, gardening, and some travel.

Christopher has enjoyed meeting many great people at GIPSA in various parts of the United States. His career gave him the opportunity to experience the differences in agricultural livestock production and marketing in various regions of the country.

Timeline, from page 1.

main office have been located. There are no reports of injuries, although several employees lost their homes.

John Shropshire sets up a command center/alternate field office in 'old' Port Allen Suboffice (co-located in a Cargill Elevator) and begins directing field office operations from there. Unbelievably, the office begins immediately receiving requests for inspection and weighing services.

Deirde Holder and **Peggy Smith**, GIPSA headquarters, begin arranging emergency housing for field office employees and their families who have been displaced by the disaster.

More than 35 GIPSA employees sign up to volunteer in FEMA-sponsored community outreach during National emergencies, such as in the aftermath of a major hurricane. In response to the tremendous number of calls received from both within GIPSA and from outside the Agency, GIPSA webmasters **Dana Stewart** and **Ray Hart** set up a new webpage dedicated solely to providing information and links related to the ongoing situation in New Orleans and the Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts, and the status of the FGIS NOLA Field Office and its employees.

Tuesday, September 6. Largely through the efforts of **Glenda Lasseigne**, administrative officer, New Orleans Field Office, more than 125 employees are located. Seventeen are confirmed to have lost their homes in the hurricane and resultant flood. Another 25 to 30 field office employees may not be allowed to return to their homes for several weeks.

The New Orleans Field Office is now operational. Phone service is limited. Most export elevators served by the field office are now operating and requesting official services.

Friday, September 9. **David Shipman**, acting GIPSA administrator, directs the Agency to pay lodging expenses for those New Orleans employees still in hotels and temporary shelter; and the purchase of 10 mobile home/trailers for use by employees who have lost their homes.

Monday, September 12. Nine more employees are found, only two are still missing.

Thursday, September 15. President Bush addresses the Nation (excerpts): "... And all who question the future of the Crescent City need to know there is no way to imagine America without New Orleans, and this great city will rise again . . . "

All of the missing New Orleans employees are located. Most of the FGIS employees who live in the outlying parishes are now being allowed to return home.

Monday, September 19. The New Orleans Field Office is fully operational and most of the major export grain elevators in the area are now working full time.

Wednesday, 21 September 2005. Hurricane Rita is a Category Five hurricane with winds in excess of 165 miles per hour. The projected landfall is Galveston, Texas.

Dannye Cameron, League City Field Office manager, closes the League City Field Office, and the Corpus Christi and Beaumont sub-offices. Work continues at several local export grain elevators until late

in the evening.

Thursday, September 22. Hurricane Rita is dropped from a Category 5 to a Category 4 storm, but meteorologists still say the rain and wind will cause extensive damage along the Gulf Coast from Houston to New Orleans.

FGIS closes the Crowley sub-office (including the Lake Charles duty point) and the New Orleans field office.

Friday, September 23. Rita makes landfall close to the Texas / Louisiana border, with Beaumont and Crowley taking direct hits.

Monday, September 26. In the wake of Rita, Houston and New Orleans residents begin to return home. The League City Field Office and the Corpus Christi sub-office suffered no hurricane damage and are fully operational. The condition of the Beaumont office is unknown at this time. All of the employees in the three offices have been accounted for.

Tuesday, September 27. All of the FGIS employees in the Crowley sub-office have been located. The condition of the Crowley sub-office is still unknown.

The Beaumont sub-office sustained significant damage and may not be operational for several weeks. Residents of Beaumont are still not being allowed to return to their homes at this time.

Our thoughts are with our colleagues in these affected areas.

Names, from page 2.

Connie Murphy and **Terri Liberty**, administrative assistants, received certificates of merit for outstanding teamwork integral to the success of the centralized administrative functions. This included assumption of new responsibilities without affecting their high level of accuracy, dedication, and expertise.

Robin Rother, computer specialist, TSD, received a spot award for outstanding IT support during the special FFIS/BRIO training held at TSD. Due to her diligence in set up and troubleshooting, all participants received hands-on training for the FFIS/BRIO software.

Travel Bits & Pieces

Peggy Smith, Washington, DC

New Per Diem and Mileage Rates. The new per diem rates were effective on October 1, 2005. The new mileage rates were effective on September 1, 2005. Both the per diem and mileage rates are posted on the GSA website at www.gsa.gov.

eTravel Update. At this time, USDA and Electronic Data Systems have mutually agreed to discontinue their work on eTravel implementation at USDA. USDA will be procuring another eTravel solution through the GSA Master Contract. In the meantime, USDA will continue to obtain travel management services through the Electronic Data Systems Travel Management Centers (Duluth Travel for GIPSA) and www.Fedtraveler.com.

Regulatory Info

Tess Butler, Washington, DC

Federal Register Publications

- Fees Assessed by the Service – Published August 26, 2005
- Designation for Aberdeen (SD), Decatur (IL), Hastings (NE), Clinton (IA), Missouri, South Carolina, and Wisconsin Areas, and Amendment to the Eastern Iowa (IA) Area – Published September 1, 2005

Issuances

Terri Henry, Washington, D.C.

New Issuances

- FGIS Directive FGIS Program Directive 9180.67, “Letterhead Transgenic and Biotechnology Statements for Grain and Graded Commodities,” dated September 12, 2005 (Distribution: A, C, E, F, G, U, V).

Please call Terri Henry at (202) 205-8281, fax to (202) 690-2755, or e-mail to Terri.L.Henry@usda.gov if you have concerns or suggestions.

**Are EEO/CR issues
or concerns
affecting your
employment with
GIPSA? Do you
have questions?
Need help? Then
let your voice be
heard.**

**Call the EEO
Advisory Committee
at...**

1-800-639-5167

Civil Rights Hotline

Designation Renewals and Activities

Virginia Roseberry, Washington, DC

GIPSA is granting designations to six official agencies to provide official grain inspection services at domestic locations. In other designation news, two official agencies amended their geographic area, one through the application process, and one through a private sale.

The following six agencies have been renewed for full 3-year periods under the authority of the U.S. Grain Standards Act. South Carolina is also delegated to provide mandatory export inspection and weighing services. A short profile on each agency follows.

Aberdeen Grain Inspection, Inc. operates in South Dakota and the southern part of North Dakota. Its headquarters is in Aberdeen and it also operates a full-service specified service point (SSP) in Mitchell, South Dakota. Aberdeen also has applicant-specific SSPs to serve customers in Canton, Emery, Madison, Marion, and Parkston, South Dakota. **Mike Hoelsing** is the official agency manager. Aberdeen provided 59,937 official inspections in fiscal year 2004.

Decatur Grain Inspection, Inc. operates in the central portion of Illinois, with its headquarters in Decatur, Illinois. Decatur recently opened an applicant-specific SSP in Waverly, Illinois. **John Humpfrey** and **Tom Chappell** are the current owners. **Tom** is also the official agency manager. Decatur provided 4,557 official inspections, plus 14,682 official commercial inspections in fiscal year 2004.

Hastings Grain Inspection, Inc.'s territory is in central Nebraska. They have two full-time SSPs in

Hastings and Grand Island. The applicant-specific SSPs are in Clarks, Enola, Grant, Hemmingford, Imperial, Kearney, Lexington, O'Neill, Shelton, and Venango, Nebraska. **Ted Hoelck** is the official agency manager; son **Greg** is president/general manager, and daughter **Annabet Hoelck Foster** is Grand Island SSP manager. Hastings provided 75,278 official inspections in fiscal year 2004.

John R. McCrea Agency, Inc. operates in portions of western Illinois and eastern Iowa, with its headquarters and only SSP in Clinton, Iowa. **John McCrea** is the president and owner. His daughter, **Jill Lutz Bielema**, is also an owner and the official agency manager. **McCrea** provided 999 official inspections in fiscal year 2004.

The **Missouri Department of Agriculture** serves all of Missouri, with headquarters in Jefferson City. They operate full-service SSPs in Kansas City, Laddonia, Marshall, New Madrid, and St. Joseph. They also have applicant-specific SSPs at Carrollton, Kansas City, Marston, and two laboratories at St. Joseph. **Fred Ferrell** is the director of the Missouri Department of Agriculture. **Richard Kaiser** is the division director, and **Larry Kitchen** is program administrator for Missouri's Division of Grain Inspection and Warehousing. Missouri provided 26,750 official inspections, plus 53,068 official commercial inspections in fiscal year 2004.

Continued, see Designations on page 8.



The designation ceremony with the Missouri Department of Agriculture officials and service point managers. Top row left to right: Kerry Camp, Kansas City SSP Manager; Rich Kaiser, Division Director; Larry Kitchen, Program Administrator; George Harris, Marshall SSP Manager; bottom row, Jeff Richter, St. Joseph SSP Manager; Rod Bell, Laddonia SSP Manager; Skyla Ash, New Madrid SSP Manager; Bob Krouse, Compliance Division; and Matt Boatright, Deputy Director.]

Columbus Day

Today we take for granted that the world is round. In the 15th century, however, most people believed the world was flat. They thought that monsters or a trip over the edge of the earth awaited anyone who sailed outside of known territory. People laughed at or jailed those who dared think that the world was in the shape of a globe.

There were educated persons, however, who reasoned that the world must be round. An Italian named **Christopher Columbus** was bold enough to push this notion, and ask for money to explore to find what he thought would be the other hemisphere of the earth. Portugal, Italy and England refused to support such a venture.

At that time, spice merchants were seeking an alternative to the eastward route to Asia. Columbus convinced Queen Isabella of Spain that it would be easier to sail west to find the rich treasures of India and Asia. A new route would be found, he said, and possible new lands for Spain.

Columbus first asked Queen Isabella for help in 1486, but it was years before she agreed... provided he conquer some of the islands and mainland for Spain. Columbus would be given the title of "Admiral of All the Ocean Seas" and receive one-tenth of the riches that came from any of his discoveries.

On August 3, 1492, he and 90 men sailed west on the flagship Santa Maria and two other ships, the Nina and the Pinta. After 3 long months, his men became tired and sick, and threatened to mutiny. Columbus encouraged them, certain that they

would find the spice trail to the East. On the night of October 11th, Columbus saw a light that was, in fact, land. The next morning at dawn they landed.

Columbus and his crew had expected to see people native to India, or be taken to see the great leader Khan. They called the first people they saw "Indians." They went ashore in their best clothes, knelt and praised God for arriving safely. From the "Indians" they learned that the island was called Guanahani. Columbus christened it San Salvador and claimed it for Spain. When they landed on the island that is now Cuba, they thought they were in Japan. After three subsequent voyages, Columbus was still unenlightened. He died a rich and famous man, but he never knew that he discovered lands that few people had imagined were there.

Columbus had stopped at what are now the Caribbean Islands, either Watling Island, Grand Turk Island, or Samana Cay. In 1926, Watling Island was renamed San Salvador and recognized as the first land in the New World. Some dispute that claim, believing that Conception Island was the one Columbus first sighted and landed on. The controversy has not yet been resolved.

Few celebrations marked the discovery until hundreds of years later. The continent was not even named after Columbus, but an Italian explorer named Amerigo Vespucci.

In 1792, a ceremony was held in New York honoring Columbus, and a monument was dedicated to him. Soon after that, the city of Washington was officially named the District of Columbia and became the capital of the

United States. In 1892, a statue of Columbus was raised at the beginning of Columbus Avenue in New York City. At the Columbian Exposition held in Chicago that year, replicas of Columbus's three ships were displayed.

Americans might not have a Columbus Day if Christopher Columbus had not been born in Italy. Out of pride for their native son, the Italian population of New York City organized the first celebration of the discovery of America on October 12, 1866. The next year, more Italian organizations in other cities held banquets, parades, and dances on that date. In 1869, when Italians of San Francisco celebrated October 12, they called it Columbus Day. In 1905, Colorado became the first state to observe Columbus Day. Over the next few decades, other states followed. In 1937, President Franklin Roosevelt proclaimed every October 12 as Columbus Day. Since 1971, it has been celebrated on the second Monday in October.

Although it is generally accepted that Christopher Columbus was the first European to have discovered the New World of the Americas, there is still some controversy over this claim. Some attribute the first sightings to the early Scandinavian Vikings or the voyages of Irish missionaries, which pre-date the Columbus visit in 1492. The controversy may never be fully resolved to everyone's satisfaction, but 1992 marked the 500th anniversary of the Columbus discovery.

(Source: www.usis.usemb.se/holidays/celebrate/Columbus.html)

For Your Health

Mavis Rogers, Washington, DC

October is National Fire Safety Month. Is anything more terrifying than hearing the wail of a fire siren near your home? If you are safe at home, you can breathe a sigh of relief. If you are not home, do you wonder if you left the coffeepot on or forgot to shut off the iron? Do you then promise the fates that if it isn't your house on fire the first thing you will do when you get home is unload that overloaded outlet or throw away that old heater you keep using. When you get home and all is well, do you then promptly forget all those promises you just made.

The most important fire and life safety related things you can do for your family are to:

- Properly install, maintain, and test smoke detectors on each floor level, outside each sleeping area and in each bedroom.
- Develop and then practice your family's home fire escape plan. Everyone should know exactly what to do if you need to escape from your home.

Here are some fire and life safety tips:

- Have a portable fire extinguisher easily accessible to spaces with higher fire hazards such as the kitchen and fireplace.
- Know two exit routes from wherever you are – the office, a restaurant, hotel room, etc.
- Check your exit route and request immediate attention by responsible parties, and that stairwells are free and clear of all obstructions and exit doors work.
- Practice good housekeeping. Prevent the accumulation of combustible items and remove trash regularly.
- Maintain at least a 3-foot (1-meter) clear space around heat-producing appliances, such as coffeepots, toaster ovens, heaters and irons. All appliances should be UL listed with an illuminated pilot light to remind you when you leave them on.
- Ensure that extension cords are UL-listed and connected to a fuse. Do not connect one extension cord to another. Electrical outlets are designed for a certain amount of power demand; using multiple outlet extension cords can easily overload a circuit.
- Repair and replace any missing ceiling tiles in a suspended ceiling. Openings in a ceiling present a path for smoke and heat to travel that could delay the response of smoke detectors or automatic sprinklers.
- Maintain a clear space of at least 18 inches between the top of storage and sprinkler heads in spaces protected with automatic sprinklers to allow for their proper operation.
- Never leave a candle unattended.

*Continued, see **For Your Health** on page 9.*

Designations, *from page 6.*

The **South Carolina Department of Agriculture** serves all of South Carolina. The headquarters and full-time SSP are both in Columbia, South Carolina. **Hugh Weathers** is the commissioner of agriculture, **Wayne Mack** is the director of marketing, and **William (Calvin) Bradley** is the current official agency manager. South Carolina provided 208 official inspections in fiscal year 2004.

State Privatization. Eastern Iowa Grain Inspection and Weighing Service, Inc., was selected to provide domestic services in the state of Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and Eastern Iowa both applied for designation to provide domestic services in Wisconsin. Wisconsin subsequently withdrew their application for designation. Eastern Iowa, managed by **David Slater**, is headquartered in Davenport, Iowa, already serves five facilities in southern Wisconsin under the exception program. The amendment to Eastern Iowa's geographic area is effective October 1, 2005, and runs concurrently with their present designation.

Sale. Sioux City Inspection and Weighing Service Company, managed by **Thomas Dahl**, and headquartered in Sioux City, Iowa, amended their geographic area by privately purchasing the A. V. Tischer and Son, Inc., corporation. The sale was effective September 1, 2005.

For Your Health, *from page 8.*

- Make sure that all hallways, staircases, and entranceways of your home are properly lit. Inspect and repair any visible wear or damage to staircases including worn rugs, loose or broken handrails, and loose or damaged steps.

Now that your home and family are prepared for a fire emergency, here a few things to do that will help you prepare for the cold weather to come.

- **Furnace Inspection:** Have your furnace inspected. Install and test your carbon monoxide detector(s).
- **Space Heaters:** If you must have a space heater, ensure that the model has the following safety features and be sure to maintain it per the manufacturer's instructions. Space heaters should be UL-listed with an illuminated pilot light, variable temperature controls, and tip-over shutdown. Three feet of clear space should be maintained around any space heater.
- **Wood burning stoves/fireplaces/chimneys**—it's always nice to have a fire in your fireplace or wood burning stove. Never leave a fire unattended and before you light the first one of the season, have the chimney/smokestack cleaned and inspected.
- If you live in an area that is susceptible to wildfires, keep your roof clear of leaves or pine needles. Clear a space of at least 30 feet between your house and the nearest tree. For more information visit the Firewise website at <http://www.firewise.org>.

Courtesy of Environmental, Health and Safety Articles

SEPM and EEOAC Nominations Reminder

There is still time to submit your nomination(s) to serve as a member of the GIPSA EEO Advisory Committee (EEOAC) or as a special emphasis program co-manager (SEPM) for the African American, Asian Pacific Islander, Federal Women's, Hispanic Employment, Disability, and American Indian/Alaskan Native Programs.

Please provide a brief statement indicating your interest in becoming a special emphasis program co-manager and/or EEO Advisory Committee member, and the positive input and value you can add to the committee and GIPSA if selected for the position.

Please return your response to **Dawn M. Cowan** via e-mail to Dawn.M.Cowan@usda.gov or by fax to 202-690-0609 by October 14.

For confidential assistance, call your Employee Assistance Program

Washington, DC personnel,
call...

301-570-3900

or

1-800-222-0364

Field personnel,
call...

1-800-222-0364

GIPSA News is the employee newsletter of the USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration. Send your news, ideas, suggestions, comments, questions, or thoughts for the next issue to:

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by October 25, 2005!

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