Emerging New Technologies and Impact on Occupational Health: State of the Science

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New Technologies

- Robotics
- Nanotechnology
- 3-D Printing

Robotics

https://youtu.be/N5AYZxsnDuM

Robotics in the Workplace

According to NIOSH:

- Increasing number of conventional industrial robots being used by companies in the United States
- Include: powered exoskeletons and autonomous cars

https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/robotics/aboutthecenter.html

All CDC -Q Search The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Workplace Safety & Health Topics > Robotics NIOSH **†** Workplace Safety & Health Promoting productive workplaces through safety and health research ROBOTICS About the Center Partnerships & Resources

Center for Occupational Robotics Research

NIOSH conducted extensive robotics safety research when robots began appearing in the workplace in the 1980s. This research was limited to robots designed to work in isolation from workers, such as robots in cages or cells. With the increase in robots and advances in their capabilities, the Center was established in September 2017 to address the safety of today's https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/robotics/aboutthecenter.html

> Work Related Injuries Workshop March 24th & 25th, 2019

Publications

About the Center

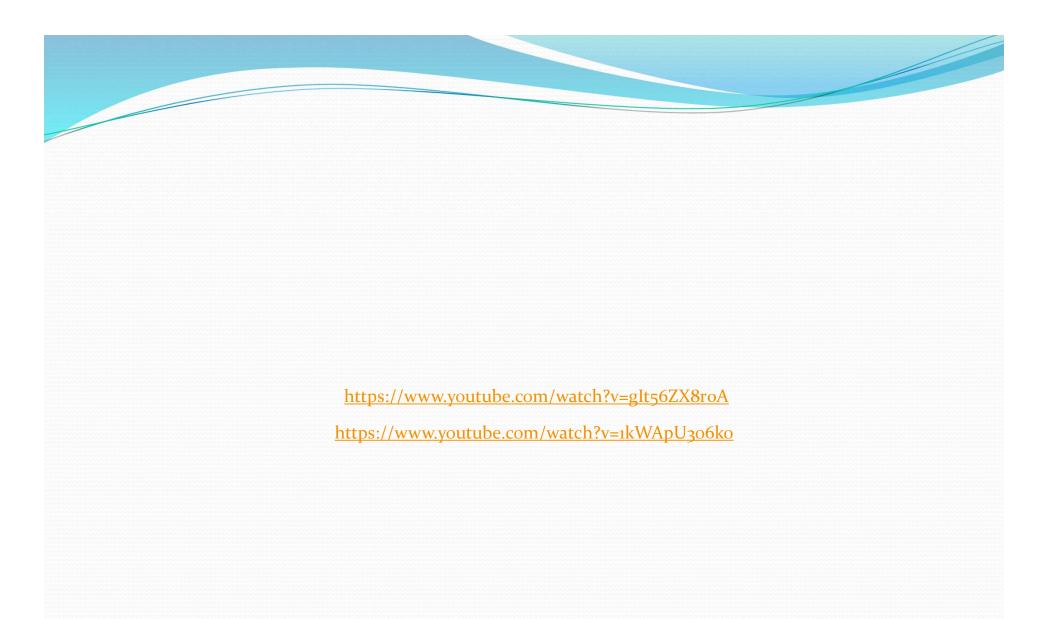
Topics

Robotics

News & Events

Research

Nanotechnology





https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/nanotech/faq.html

Workplace Safety & Health Topics

Nanotechnology

Nanotechnology Research Center

Guidance & Publications

Field Studies Effort

10 Critical Topic Areas

News & Events

Partnerships & Collaborations

Frequently Asked Questions

Other Resources

Respiratory Protection

Read "Respiratory Protection for Workers Handling Engineered Nanoparticles" on the NIOSH Science Blog and share your comments.

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NANOTECHNOLOGY



10 Critical Topic Areas

NIOSH has identified 10 critical topic areas to guide in addressing knowledge gaps, developing strategies, and providing recommendations.

Each topic provides a brief description of the research that NIOSH is conducting in the area of nanotechnology and the applications and implications of nanomaterials in the workplace.

Toxicity and Internal Dose	
Risk Assessment	
Epidemiology & Surveillance	
Engineering Controls and PPE	
Measurement Methods	
Exposure Assessment	
Fire and Explosion Safety	
Recommendations & Guidance	
Global Collaborations	
Applications	



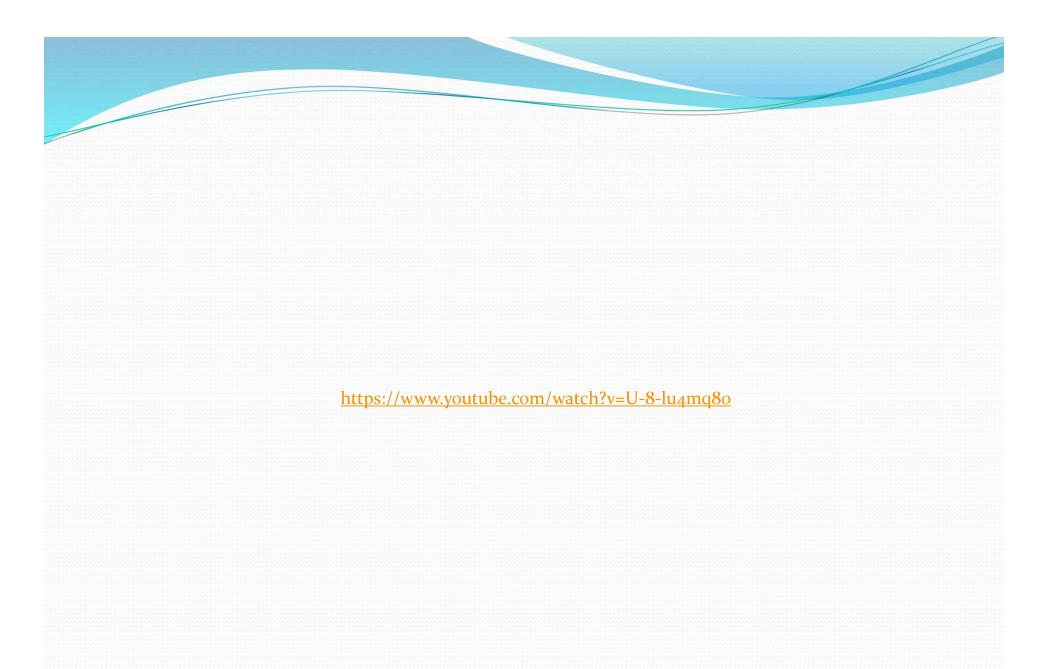
Promoting productive workplaces through safety and health research /

Nanotechnology in the Workplace

- Workers within nanotechnology-related industries have the potential to be exposed to uniquely engineered materials with novel sizes, shapes, and physical and chemical properties
- Occupational health risks associated with manufacturing and using nanomaterials are not yet clearly understood
- Minimal information is currently available on dominant exposure routes, potential exposure levels, and material toxicity of nanomaterials

https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/nanotech/default.html

3-D Printing



What is additive manufacturing/3D printing?

Joining materials to make objects from 3D model data, usually layer upon layer (ISO/ASTM 52900:2015....Formerly ASTM F2792).



Subtractive Manufacturing

Photo: Fabricatingandmetalworking.com

Additive Manufacturing

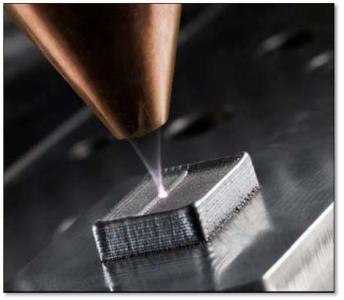


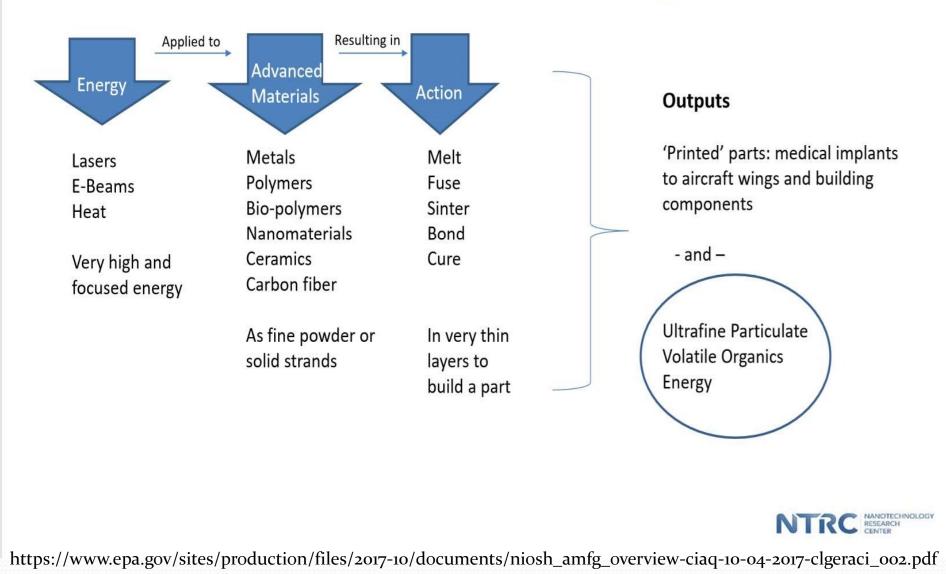
Photo: Canadianmetalworking.com





https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-10/documents/niosh_amfg_overview-ciaq-10-04-2017-clgeraci_002.pdf

Additive Manufacturing



Desktop 3D Printing



- Readily available
- Multiple polymer strands available
- Custom 'at home' strand compounding
- Prices dropping, units getting larger





https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-10/documents/niosh_amfg_overview-ciaq-10-04-2017-clgeraci_002.pdf

Advantages of 3-D Printing

- Decreased design to manufacturing times
- Decreased tool cost
- Less waste: 3D printing only uses the material needed
- Reduced energy consumption

https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docket/archive/pdfs/niosh-278/hammond_3dprintingsept2016.pdf

3-D Printing and the Workplace

- Not enough data on workplace exposures (including ultrafine particles, volatile organic compounds)
- In the future: Conduct laboratory and field studies to better understand existing engineering controls used to contain industrial 3D printer emissions

Take Aways

Summary

- Emerging technologies are developing faster than ability of occupational health professionals to keep up
- Understand what your workers do
- Take detailed history of exposures
- Ask your workers lots of questions
- Do site visits

Thank you! Questions?