



Decision: NID 8921.143, Policy for Handling Mortality Related to NASA Human Spaceflight Operations

What it does

- Outlines NASA's policy for handling deaths that occur during human spaceflight operations.
- Ensures procedures for medical investigations, handling of remains, and chain of custody in spaceflight -related deaths.

Justification for extension

Request to place revisions on the schedule presented on 5/14. OCHMO directed to issue NID instead.

- Extension requested for March 9, 2026, to allow time incorporate the NID's language into NPR 8900.1, NASA Health and Medical Requirements for Human Space Exploration, which is being overhauled after Health and Medical Technical Authority (HMTA) -related content was moved to **NPR 7120.11, NASA HMTA Implementation**, that will now be issued as a NID. NPR 8900.1 expires March 2026 – this timeframe allows us to capture upcoming organizational re-alignments that may apply to responsibilities outlined in the NPR/NID content.
- The NID covers primarily OCHMO responsibilities and relationships/capabilities needed in the event of a spaceflight -related fatality(ies). Fatalities have not previously been addressed in Agency -wide directives; only in handbooks.

Background

- NID 8921.143 was issued in August 2024 and expires August 2025. No other extensions were requested.

Recommendation Extend contingent that OCHMO submits the revision to NPR 8900.1 for review in NODIS by January 13, 2026.