

**MINUTES**  
**LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
 Wednesday, January 21, 2015 (3005 Michael Hooker Research Center)

**Members Present:** Pat Boone, Catherine Brennan, Kimberlie Burns, Nita Eskew, Karen Hogan, Mary Beth Koza, Rihe Liu, Kathryn Reissner, Courtney Roberts, Kirby Zeman

**Members Absent:** Lorraine Alexander, Bruna Brylawski, Anthony Hackney, Michael Long

Meeting commenced at 3:00 pm.

**EPA/NCDENR Inspection**

Brennan updated the committee on the annual RCRA hazardous waste permit inspection that occurred in September 2014. Both state and federal inspectors participated and inspected the Treatment, Storage and Disposal (TSD) facility, UNC Hospitals and University labs. In regards to University labs, inspectors visited three buildings housing three different departments.

**CFATS Inspection and Chemical Security**

Brennan updated committee on Universities compliance with the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) and a recent inspection conducted by the Department of Homeland Security. The CFATS regulations provide guidance for securing certain Chemicals of Interest (COI) that could be used directly or indirectly for terroristic purposes. The DHS inspection turned into a compliance assistance visit and was very productive. DHS personnel met with many University stakeholders and toured 3 lab buildings.

**Avert Newsletter**

The most recent edition of the Avert newsletter was discussed. The latest edition included information on Biosafety Stewardship Month, a mentoring article that featured David Lawrence from the Department of Chemistry and School of Pharmacy and a poster that featured a graduate student and postdoc from the Department of Biochemistry & Biophysics. Newsletters were sent to all laboratory Principal Investigators on campus in January 2015.

**Injuries and Incidents, September-December 2014**

The Committee reviewed the log of injuries and incidents from September through December, 2014.

INJURY TYPE	INJURY
Animal Bite	An employee was running a behavioral experiment on a mouse and was bitten on knuckle of finger. The affected area later became swollen, red and hot to the touch.
Animal Bite	An employee was attempting to break up fight between two dogs and one of the dogs turned and bit employee's left hand.
Animal Bite	An employee was working with a mouse in a high containment lab and was bit through glove while scruffing mouse.
Blood Exposure, needlestick	An employee punctured finger when placing a needle into Sharps container. Needle had been used during BSL2+ research.
Blood Exposure, other	After cleaning a pair of scissors previously used for BSL2+ work, an employee was drying off blades and pricked right thumb through gloves.
Burn or Scald, Heat or Cold	Employee was warming methanol and benzoic anhydride in plastic tube in microwave. When employee opened tube, material squirted out onto face due to pressure build-up.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	An employee was cleaning a microtome blade and cut finger on blade.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	A disposable Pasteur Pipet broke in employees hand and led to minor cuts.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	An employee was using a razor blade to cut off plastic tube and cut left index finger.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	Employee was washing a glass beaker and it shattered while handling.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	An employee was disassembling a microtome and cut thumb on blade.
Miscellaneous	An employee was sorting paperwork received from another department and found a piece contaminated with blood. Employee reported to UEOHC based on possible exposure.
Miscellaneous	A Tier 1 Select Agent worker developed a fever and was monitored based on status as Tier 1 worker not based on any known exposure or injury.
Miscellaneous	Employee rinsed a mortar and pestle that contained sodium sulfide. A strong odor occurred and possible hydrogen sulfide was released.

Striking Against of Stepping On	An employee was collecting fiddler crabs and fell on an oyster shell leading to laceration of right hand.
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For incidents, there was 1 fire, 6 fire alarms, 1 miscellaneous, 13 odor complaints, 1 request for investigation/complaint and 3 chemical spills.

**Other Committee Business**

Eskew mentioned that Public Safety will do security walk-throughs by request, contact Meghan Howard for assistance. Koza reported on upcoming security features that will be added to campus.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.