

**MINUTES**  
**LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
Wednesday, January 23, 2008 (2101-G McGavran-Greenberg)

**Members Present:** Lorraine Alexander, Pat Boone (for Carolyn Bishop), Bruna Brylawski, Kimberlie Burns, Susan Cheek, Howard Fried, James Gilbert, Ray Hackney, Rihe Liu, Bonnie Taylor-Blake, Kirby Zeman

**Members Absent:** Katherine Hamil, Jeff Johnson, Rita Fuchs-Lokensgard, Liska Lackey

**Others Present:** Darren Trembl (EHS)

Meeting commenced at 3:00pm. Minutes from the meeting of October 24, 2007 were reviewed and approved.

**Waste Container Explosion Incident**

Ray Hackney reviewed an explosion incident in a University teaching lab in which waste materials from lab experiments were inappropriately mixed. Two laboratory prep technicians were in the immediate vicinity of the explosion and one received a cut above the right eye from flying glass. As a result of this incident, this teaching lab is reviewing its waste collection procedures, safety training, and personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements. The technician injured by flying glass was not wearing eye protection.

Prior to this incident, EHS planned to require Laboratory Safety Plans for teaching labs and include them in the Collaborative Laboratory Inspection Program (CLIP).

**Containers for the Collection of Biohazard Waste in Laboratories**

Darren Trembl (EHS Safety Officer) discussed the wide array of containers used for the collection of biohazardous waste on campus and why they do not all meet the requirements of the University policy (i.e. durable, leak-proof, clearly labeled, have a lid, and can not be mistaken for a trash container). The Committee reviewed a proposal to add the requirement that biohazardous waste containers must be red in color. EHS believes that taking this step will help provide visual information (red containers) as another means of communicating the hazard to housekeeping staff and reduce the number of unautoclaved biohazardous waste bags that reach the Landfill.

The Committee voted to enact this policy with the following conditions:

- EHS is to compile a list of acceptable containers that range in price and volume.
- EHS is to research any price breaks that may be available from vendors for large orders.
- This information is to be reviewed at the April 2008 LCSC meeting for final approval.
- Laboratories and other facilities will be expected to satisfy the requirement within one-year after it has been approved.
- The policy update will be preceded by announcements and educational materials for labs.

**Update on the BBP Exposure Control Plan**

Trembl updated the Committee on the status of the BBP Exposure Control Plan for laboratories. The Plan targets laboratories rather than Clinics and includes the use of all samples of human origin. The Plan has been seen by the IBC and slightly revised. It is expected to be accepted February 4, 2008. Once accepted the new online training will be finalized. Once the online training is ready, an email will be sent out to laboratories explaining the changes and directing labs to the new training.

**Needlestick Prevention Devices**

Trembl asked for feedback from the Committee about needlestick prevention devices that were presented at an earlier Committee meeting. The examples shown were single use type needles of both the active and passive type. The Committee asked EHS to find out if the single use needles came in different volumes and gauges that laboratories could choose from and list these as examples on the EHS needlestick prevention website.

## Injuries and Incidents, October-December 2007

The Committee reviewed the log of injuries and incidents for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2007.

INJURY TYPE	DESCRIPTION
Burn	Researcher was splashed with hot silicone oil while trying to put out small lab fire.
Cut	Work study student was struck in the face above the right eye. Eye protection was not worn while pouring liquid wastes after undergraduate chemistry experiments.
Cut	Microtome blade slipped while employee was sectioning paraffin-embedded human tissue.
Cut	Employee cut hand on metal case that hold pipets being autoclaved.
Miscellaneous: Inhalation	Grad student working alone in lab after hours dropped an 18 mL vial of anisole. Called EHS for info but did not call 911 as instructed on message. Spill was cleaned up by student and some vapors were inhaled. She felt discomfort in chest and went to UEOHC the next day.
Miscellaneous: Foreign matter in eye	Employee was pouring acrylamide solution when she received a splash into her right eye. She flushed the eye for five minutes in the lab and went to the UEOHC. Eye was flushed for fifteen minutes upon arrival. Eye protection was not worn during the incident.
Miscellaneous: Not otherwise classified	Employee was preparing a formaldehyde solution when the spigot on 5-gal container broke. Container was above shoulder height and employee received exposure of considerable amount from head to knee. Employee decontaminated in safety shower and changed into a scrub suit. Employee then went home and showered again. Went to UEOHC 3-hrs after incident.
Miscellaneous: Not otherwise classified	No injuries indicated but transported to ED as a precaution. Student had not taken UNC lab safety course.
Striking against or stepping on stationary object.	PI was performing a procedure with his back to folding screen in lab. Screen was moved and when he turned around he bumped head and left eye.
Striking against or stepping on.	While giving a sedative to a large animal, the employee slipped and braced himself on wall with right hand and immediately noticed pain in his middle finger. Employee was given splint to wear and will continue to wear for 3-4 months.
Struck or injured by animal.	Employee received mouse bite on knuckle of left index finger while handling mouse. The bite broke the glove and bleeding occurred. The mouse was not infected.

For incidents, there was one explosion, one fire incident, one radiation spill, three gas leaks, three miscellaneous incidents, 9 chemical spills (3 of them mercury), and 14 odor calls.

Meeting adjourned 4:00 pm.