

MINUTES LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 24, 2007 (2005 MHRC)

Members Present: Lorraine Alexander, Kimberlie Burns, Bruna Brylawski, Jeff Johnson, Howard Fried, Kirby Zeman, Rita Fuchs-Lokensgard, Rihe Liu, James Gilbert, Ray Hackney, Brent Webber

Members Absent: Bonnie Taylor-Blake, Katherine Hamil, Susan McMahan, Liska Lackey, Carolyn Bishop

Meeting commenced at 3:00pm. Minutes from the meeting of October 25, 2006 were reviewed and approved.

Injuries and Incidents, October-December 2006

The Committee reviewed and discussed the log of injuries and incidents for the 4th Quarter 2006.

INJURY TYPE	DESCRIPTION
MISC: BLOOD EXPOSURE – SCAPLEL, OTHER EQUIPMENT, ETC.	Physician working in specimen freezer and wearing latex gloves received scrape on left hand. Employed since 1998 but apparently had not completed BBP training.
FALL, SLIP OR TRIP: FALL FROM LIQUID OR GREASE SPILLS	Research technician slipped on wet boardwalk while in Duke Forest collecting air samples.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE: BROKEN GLASS	Research technician was picking up pieces of broken glass by hand and disposing to broken glass container. Received laceration on right index finger.
MISC: BLOOD EXPOSURE - SPLASH	Post-doc was ejecting pipet tips into biohazardous waste bag and small splash may have entered eye. No eye protection worn.
STRAIN: STRAIN OF INJURY	Research technician bent down to open and unpack packages that were on the floor and strained lower back.
MISC: FOREIGN MATTER IN EYE	TA was conducting research project using 4% formaldehyde. Container fell on floor and material splashed into right eye and possibly left eye. Eye rinsed immediately before seeking medical treatment. Only wearing gloves and mask.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE: HAND TOOL, UTENSIL	Research specialist was preparing packages for shipment and tape cutter cut left thumb.
MISC: ABSORPTION, INGESTION, OR INHALATION	Graduate student was removing chemicals from laboratory refrigerator when bottle of thiophosgene fell out and broke on floor.
STRAIN: LIFTING (including lifting patient)	“When lift a box to shelf, sprain the left shoulder.”
MISC: BLOOD EXPOSURE – NEEDLESTICK	Employee stuck finger with needle while attempting to add reagents together in a transfer pack of thawed peripheral blood mononuclear cells.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE: CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE	Post-doc was attempting to inject anesthetic in mouse. Mouse leg moved and needle punctured other hand.
MISC: BLOOD EXPOSURE - NEEDLESTICK	Research technician uncapping syringe containing human cells in preparation for mouse injection. Hand holding syringe (r) moved and needle poked finger of left hand.

For incidents, there were 24 spills (21 of them mercury), 20 odor calls, four natural gas leaks, and two miscellaneous incidents.

The Committee remains concerned about the number of mercury-related spills. Hackney stated that the efforts to rid non-essential mercury thermometers from UNC was ongoing, and that EHS had received a grant to pay for replacement non-mercury types. Also, the lengths that EHS was going to when responding to mercury spills was having an impact in labs that reported the spills.

New Laboratory Safety Manual

Webber gave a presentation of the new proposed UNC Laboratory Safety Manual (LSM). Several copies were distributed among Committee members. The presentation talked about the reason why the LSM was being updated, and the major changes. Changes include new wording and format and several new chapters or

sections on subjects such as reproductive health, GFCI, controlled substances, and lab hoods. Following the presentation, the Committee was given a chance for input.

Zeman asked whether it might be possible to include a terms index in the LSM. Gilbert stated that our goal was to acquire a TEXTTRACT™ license and use this software to generate a robust keyword index for the printed version. Fried wished for the introductory sections to state explicitly that the intent of these rules is to help UNC comply with applicable local, state, and Federal regulations. Liu and Fuchs-Lokensgard asked for clarification to the new Controlled Substances chapter, with guidance on how to transfer substances between investigators. Burns asked for addition of prohibitions for long-term storage of gas cylinders in hallways, and explicit statements about not overloading chains or belts with more gas cylinders than they can safely support.

Following this input period, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the new LSM with only the minor revisions noted above.

Meeting adjourned 4:00pm.