

MINUTES

LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 25, 2012 (2101G McGavran-Greenberg)

Members Present: Lorraine Alexander, Erik Alexanian, Pat Boone, Kimberlie Burns, Catherine Brennan, Bruna Brylawski, Dan Elliott, Jacob Forstater, Rita Fuchs-Lokensgard, Karen Hogan, Mary Beth Koza, Michael Long, Rihe Liu, Kirby Zeman

Members Absent: Anthony Hackney, Katherine Hamil, Susan McMahan

Other Attendees: Jonathan Moore (EHS), Elizabeth Ayers (DTH)

Meeting commenced at 3:00 pm.

Collaborative Laboratory Inspection Program (CLIP) 2011 Summary

Moore gave the 2011 annual update for the Collaborative Laboratory Inspection Program (CLIP). The number of annual CLIP inspections performed in 2011 jumped to 568 from 536 in 2010. Also the number of BSL2 lab inspections rose to 339 as compared to 299 in 2010. Top citations in 2011 included:

- *Training* (annual lab safety plan, blood borne pathogen and lab safety orientation)
- *Regulatory* (lab safety plan not updated or developed)
- *Waste management* (chemical waste not properly identified, infectious waste not handled properly, improper handling/collection of broken glass and other sharps, chemical waste containers not closed and chemical waste bottles not contained in secondary container)
- *Emergency planning* (emergency contact info not displayed, emergency eyewash and shower equipment is not identified properly)
- *Chemical storage* (unsupported gas cylinders, hazardous chemicals are not stored properly, incompatible chemicals are stored together)
- *Personal protective equipment* (inappropriate footwear while working in lab)
- *Procedures* (handling of needles, vacuum lines used for media suction in BSCs are not protected with an in-line HEPA filter, designated BSL2 laboratory areas are not easily cleanable, unsafe or unhealthy condition – non serious).

Moore commented that a greater focus will be made on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) by EHS lab safety inspectors in 2012.

UNC Formaldehyde Exposure Control Plan

Brennan presented the new formaldehyde exposure control plan to the committee for a vote. The policy outlines responsibilities of principal investigators, researchers and EHS in regards to formaldehyde use, exposure control and compliance with the OSHA Formaldehyde Standard (29 CFR 1910.1048). Burns made a suggestion that it be clear that people who dispense formaldehyde require training as well as those who receive samples containing formaldehyde. The committee voted for approval with the minor modification suggested by Burns. The policy will be presented at the March University Safety and Security Committee (USSC) meeting.

Lab Safety Survey

Koza presented the results from the recent lab safety survey that was sent to principal investigators and safety supervisors on December 13th, 2011 and January 9th, 2012. More than 250 people responded and 90-97% recognized the importance of lab safety. Koza proposed that the committee meet more often to help further lab safety culture at the university. The committee voted on the proposed schedule change and agreed to start meeting every other month. Further committee discussion on lab safety culture focused on what the committee could do to further awareness and training. Alexander referenced the CDC “zombie” preparedness campaign as something fun that grabs people’s attention. Koza emphasized that we need to instill in researchers that safety is not a dumb question and try to make it fun and more visible.

Injuries and Incidents, 4th Quarter (October-December) 2011

The Committee reviewed the log of injuries and incidents for the 4th Quarter 2011.

INJURY
Employee working in lab was exposed to fumes from chemicals being used in next room during construction.
Powered Air Purifying Respirator failed while working in bio-containment lab after hours.

Employee was working with research dogs and was bitten by dog.
Employee was training students in handling and restraint of rats and rat bit finger.
Employee picked up biohazard bag to place in autoclave and a needle was in bag and stuck employee's middle finger.
Needle stuck in employee's right hand after blood draw.
Employee was doing fine needle aspiration of pancreatic tumor and stuck needle in right index finger.
Employee was using scalpel to cut organs from BSL2+ agent infected mouse and stuck left hand with scalpel.
Employee was using scissors in bio-containment lab and cut through gloves.
Employee was cleaning microtome and right index finger was cut by blade.
Employee was removing slides with razor blade and cut thumb.
Employee tripped in the water onto a rock structure while performing a field survey.
Employee was working in lab and slipped on wet floor that had been treated with floor stripper.
Employee experienced dermatitis on left hand.
Employee was leaving lab after finishing work. Removed PPE, washed hands, left while scraping finger on door knob.
Employee was cleaning lab freezer and cut finger on metal organizer in freezer.
Employee bent down to pull specimen box out of -80 degree freezer and a cabinet door above employee swung open. When employee stood up head banged door.

For incidents, there were 8 odor complaints, 4 fume hood malfunctions, 4 chemical spills, 1 fire alarm, 1 blood spill and 1 mercury spill.

Brennan also noted that cuts and punctures were once again the top injury type during 2011. EHS will be sending out a fact sheet on cuts and punctures with the link to the posted minutes to help reinforce safety measures that could prevent this type of injury.

Other Committee Business

The committee discussed goals for 2012, which include:

- Committee involvement in CLIP inspections
- Increasing safety awareness at the University through communication
- Proposing safety topics based on meeting review of incident and injury data

The goal involving committee involvement in CLIP inspections will require each committee member to participate in one inspection per year with an EHS safety inspector. By involving committee members in inspections it helps emphasize importance, gives members a feel for the scope of inspections and helps member make suggestions for updates or changes to the inspection program.

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm.