

MINUTES
LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, March 18, 2015 (3005 Michael Hooker Research Center)

Members Present: Pat Boone, Catherine Brennan, Nita Eskew, Karen Hogan, Michael Long, Kathryn Reissner

Members Absent: Lorraine Alexander, Bruna Brylawski, Kimberlie Burns, Anthony Hackney, Mary Beth Koza, Rihe Liu, Courtney Roberts, Kirby Zeman

Meeting commenced at 3:05 pm.

Formaldehyde Exposure Control Policy

The committee performed the annual review of the [Formaldehyde Exposure Control Policy](#). In addition to the policy review, Brennan gave an overview of UNC's Formaldehyde Safety program including pertinent regulations, the number of formaldehyde users on campus, [Formaldehyde Safety](#) online training compliance percentages and yearly monitoring that has occurred for formaldehyde. No changes were made to the policy except to reformat into the new template.

Committee 2014 Accomplishments and 2015 Goals

The committee discussed accomplishments from 2014 which included:

- Began discussions and outlined CLIP Non-compliance process.
- Discussed, reviewed and disseminated recent safety culture articles to UNC researchers.
- Increased frequency of LCSC meetings.

The committee also generated new goals for 2015:

- Finalize CLIP Non-Compliance process specifically defining committee's role.
- Convene focus group and develop draft guidelines regarding safety issues in open lab design buildings.
- Examine historical injury data to target injury reduction and disseminate information using various modes of communication (updating trainings, safety fairs, posters, newsletters, etc)

A suggestion was made that the committee should review goals at every meeting and generate objectives for each to ensure that we are on track for completion at year end.

Injuries and Incidents, January-February 2015

The Committee reviewed the log of injuries and incidents from January through February, 2015.

INJURY TYPE	INJURY
Burn or Scald, Heat or Cold: Chemicals	Employee was washing glass containing sulfuric acid when the bottle fell down on table and splashed employee on hands.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape: Broken Glass	Employee grabbed a 125 ml glass flask and it shattered in hand.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape: Hand Tool, Utensil	Employee cut thumb of left hand in tissue sectioning device.
Fall, Slip or Trip: Fall from liquid or grease spill	Employee was carrying a large plastic jug of water. The handle broke off, causing jug to fall, shatter and spill its contents. This caused slip and fall accident and injury to head/face to two employees.
Fall, Slip or Trip: Ice or Snow	Employee was taking gross specimens for a pathology lab/lecture from Brinkhous-Bullitt to another building and fell on ice on sidewalk in front of Bioinformatics Bldg.
Fall, Slip or Trip: Ice or Snow	Employee fell on ice on sidewalk in front of Bioinformatics Bldg.
Misc: Blood Exposure – Needlestick	Employee was stuck in wrist from a dirty needle that was used on a mouse to inject Avertin.
Strain: Using Tool or Machine	Employee experience shoulder pain during installation of large piece of equipment.
Striking Against or Stepping On: Stationary Object	Employee was moving equipment near a balance and top of hand hit glass shield on balance and took a slice out of thumb.
Striking Against or Stepping On: Striking Against or Stepping On	Employee was freezing and storing samples when hand was slammed into key that locks freezer.

For incidents, there were 2 fire alarms, 6 odor complaints, 2 chemical spills, 1 mercury spill and 2 water spills.

Other Committee Business

The committee requested a tour of Marsico Hall since it is the newest lab building and contains an open-lab space design. Brennan will organize for an upcoming meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.