

MINUTES

LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 28, 2012 (2101G McGavran-Greenberg)

Members Present: Lorraine Alexander, Pat Boone, Kimberlie Burns, Catherine Brennan, Bruna Brylawski, Jacob Forstater, Rita Fuchs-Lokensgard, Anthony Hackney, Karen Hogan, Michael Long, Kirby Zeman

Members Absent: Erik Alexanian, Dan Elliott, Mary Beth Koza, Rihe Liu

Meeting commenced at 3:00 pm.

Upcoming NCDENR Hazardous Waste Audit

Long informed the committee that our state inspector has called and will be coming for an unannounced annual inspection sometime in the Spring. In the past 3 years a federal EPA inspector has also come on the same day as the state inspection. Last year the audit included the Science Complex buildings and was spread over two days. If repeat violations are found during the upcoming audit fines to the University could occur. Long also highlighted the Hazardous Waste poster that EHS sent to all laboratory Principal Investigators which re-emphasizes requirements for hazardous waste management.

PPE Campaign

Brennan presented plans for a PPE campaign that includes a new poster that was sent out on the back of the Avert newsletter. In addition to the poster there will be short video and print photo campaign that emphasizes the importance of personal protective equipment in the lab environment. Committee members had positive feedback on the highlighted educational materials and suggested that we continue to send out items for labs to use as resources during trainings or safety meetings. A glove compatibility chart/poster was suggested to be added as part of the PPE campaign materials.

Self-Inspection Checklist

Brennan presented an updated self-inspection checklist and asked for feedback from the committee. The self-inspection checklist is a tool for labs to use when preparing for EHS inspections and also for day to day operations. The committee suggested adding items on BSL2, shipping and lab specific policies such as "Working Alone Guidelines", "Standard Operating Procedures" and "Lab Accident Protocols". EHS will send out the revised checklist to Principal Investigators and Safety Supervisors with this month's email that contains the minutes.

Injuries and Incidents, January-February 2012

The Committee reviewed the log of injuries and incidents from January through February, 2012.

INJURY
Employee experienced potential animal allergy after spending 3 hours in animal colony room.
Employee sustained animal bite when putting rat back in home cage after conclusion of operant training session.
Employee was injecting a mouse with anesthesia and it bit employee's finger.
Employee was drawing cells into needle and flicked syringe to remove air. The needle pricked employee through gloves.
Employee nicked left hand finger while processing mouse tissue.
Employee was pipetting into a centrifuge tube inside a biological safety cabinet when they pierced right thumb with a small glass shard on cabinet surface.
Employee was putting up bottle in lab, tripped on box and injured back.
Employee was reaching to take animal cage from shelf and felt a very sharp pain.
Employee experienced pain to hand and wrists after typing.
Employee was working in a tissue culture room and while being handed a reagent it dropped to the floor. The employee bent over to pick up the dropped item and upon standing up hit head on an open incubator door.
Employee was resetting an instrument and one of the doors on the piece of equipment dropped on left side of face around eyebrow causing bruising and pain.
Employee was working in hood and hit the back of head on sash.

For incidents, there was 1 biohazard, 3 fire alarms, 1 fume hood malfunction, 1 gas leak (natural), 13 odor complaints, 1 miscellaneous, 2 chemical spills, and 1 radiation spill.

Other Committee Business

The new goal of committee members participating in one CLIP inspection per year was brought up and Brennan asked that members send an email specifying which month they would like to participate in an inspection.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.