

MINUTES

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE, LABORATORY ENVIRONMENT

Tuesday, April 4, 2000 (2101G McGavran-Greenberg)

Members present: Lorraine Alexander, Bonnie Taylor-Blake, Todd Gambling, James Gilbert, Ray Hackney, Kathryn Hamil, Richard Hanes, Sheldon Wiggins

Members absent: Kevin Dudley, Mike Fisher, Jim Morken, Lola Reid, Paula Murphy, Diane Shugars, Kirby Zeman

Minutes for the meeting held on December 7, 1999 were approved.

REVIEW OF INCIDENTS/INJURIES IN THE LABORATORY ENVIRONMENT

During December to February there were 9 laboratory injuries, which are listed below:

- While sawing acrylic trays, hand was cut due to guard not being in place to prevent hand contact with moving saw blade. Out of work for 2.5 days.
- Cut by broken glass in rotating incubator. Employee received two stitches.
- Cut both hands while putting glass Y adapter into rubber hose. Employee received stitches in one hand.
- Employee cut thumb while cutting paraffin sections on microtome.
- Strained lower back while helping to lift 220-lb. pig. Employee was out of work for 3 days.
- While adjusting sample in cryostat, employee's left hand slipped and thumb was cut.
- Finger was cut on blade of paper cutter. Employee received one stitch.
- Cut by scalpel on tray while reaching for another instrument on tray.
- While lifting case of filter units, corner of box hit and bruised employee's knee.

Twenty-four laboratory incidents were also reviewed. There were 14 odor complaints, 5 mercury spills, 2 chemical spills, 1 rad spill, and 1 biohazard incident. A faulty hot plate caused a fire inside a lab hood.

REDUCING THE USE OF MERCURY UPDATE

The safety data sheet on reducing mercury use will be included in information provided at the Lab Safety Orientation classes. This information will also be provided to labs that have mercury spills. University scientific storeroom has thermometers available as alternatives to mercury-containing thermometers.

LABORATORY CLIP INSPECTIONS SUMMARY

A summary of the laboratory CLIP inspections for December 1999 to February 2000 was reviewed. The most common violation was not providing and documenting the annual training on the lab safety plan. The results are summarized below:

Rating	Definition	Percent of Labs Inspected
Outstanding	2 or more consecutive inspections with no violations	33.5%
Excellent	1 inspection with no violations or only 1 <i>de-minimus</i>	38%
Good	1 non-serious violations and/or < 5 <i>de-minimus</i>	23%
Poor	2 or more Non-serious or ≥ 5 <i>de-minimus</i> ; repeat violation	5%
Unacceptable	1 or more serious violations (corrected immediately)	0.5%

IMPROVING CUSTOMER SERVICE

The committee discussed ideas for improving Health and Safety Office customer service for the laboratory environment. This discussion will be continued at the next meeting. The following ideas were suggested:

- Complete and submit Lab Safety Plans on-line.
- Post inspection checklists with explanations of each item on web. Post inspection results on web.
- Implement an automated, formal notification system to inform new faculty of HSO policies and information.
- Provide lab ergonomic training.
- Provide listserv for PIs to disseminate safety information.