

MINUTES
LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE
 Wednesday, April 14, 2004 (2101G McGavran-Greenberg)

Members Present: Kim Burns, Bonnie Taylor-Blake, Lorraine Alexander, Nikki Duncan, Bruna Brylawski, Diane Shugars, James Gilbert, Ray Hackney, Brent Webber

Members Absent: Mike Fisher, Liska Lackey, Kirby Zeman, Elizabeth Guthrie, Jim Morken, Katherine Hamil, Richard Hanes

Also Present: Deb Howard and Brian Eggert of Environment Health and Safety

Minutes from the meeting on January 21, 2004 were approved.

Shipping of Hazardous Materials

Deb Howard talked about the current regulatory climate at UNC regarding shipping of hazardous materials: UNC is in midst of Dept. of Commerce audit, and it is likely that the FAA will audit as well. Common recent violations of shipping regulations were discussed, and a presentation was given highlighting the most important regulations.

Waste Disposal

Handouts were distributed that covered the proper disinfection (if necessary) and disposal of glass and sharps waste. Brian Eggert discussed the proper and improper use of "Burn-Up Bins" – cardboard disposal boxes that are meant for incinerated waste, but that had been used for disposal of regular broken glass and ended up at the landfill. Issues related to proper disposal of glass and plastic pipettes and autoclaved waste were also discussed.

Accidents and Incidents in Lab Buildings

Brent Webber discussed an incident in Physics & Astronomy involving an explosive reaction of Cesium and Ethanol that caused a lab employee (non-UNC) to receive 2nd degree burns to the arm, leg, and neck.

James Gilbert distributed documents that listed the incidents and injuries in lab buildings during the first quarter of 2004. The following injuries were reviewed:

Department	Injury
MEDICINE	Employee was transferring blood from one tube to another when needle of patient's blood stuck left thumb.
COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER	Possible exposure to TB (Employee had not completed lab safety training.)
CHEMISTRY	Comments on animal handler forms led UEOHC to request employee enter respiratory protection program. Fit tested for N95; tried to control allergies with medication.
PATHOLOGY & LAB MEDICINE	Employee wearing nitrile gloves (while using formalin) complained of problems. UEOHC recommended use of cotton glove liners. Employee complained of loss of dexterity and switched to double gloving with latex gloves.
NUTRITION	Employee was practicing injections on mice with phosphate buffered solution when needle stuck left thumb. Employee was concerned about possible diseases related to lab mice.
GENETICS	Employee cleaning microtome cut left thumb on blade by accident. (Employee had not completed lab safety training.)
CELL & DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY	Employee was cutting paraffin embedded specimen when hand slipped and left index finger was cut.
BIOLOGY	Employee was attaching a vacuum line to a solvent flask for degassing solvent when the glass tube broke and entered right finger. Incident occurred at 6:30 pm; went to ER next morning to have glass removed from finger.
PATHOLOGY & LAB MEDICINE	Employee was checking dishwasher when steam shot out and hit left hand causing 1 st degrees burns. (Employee had not completed lab safety training.)
GENETICS	Employee splashed in left eye while trying to open ampoule of 10% potassium hydroxide.

MICROBIOLOGY & IMMUNOLOGY	Employee cut index finger on left hand while sectioning tissues. Did not engage blade guard on tissue sectioner.
COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER	Employee working with blood sample cut index finger on left hand when beaker broke while throwing away cell culture waste.
PSYCHIATRY	Researcher grabbed mouse as it escaped and it turned around and bit right index finger.
BIOCHEMISTRY & BIOPHYSICS	Liquid nitrogen splashed on foot when employee removed sample from cryogen storage tank.
MICROBIOLOGY & IMMUNOLOGY	Employee was stuck with a syringe, contaminated with <i>Haemophilus ducreyi</i> . No infection resulted

Laboratory Incidents 1st Quarter 2004: 2 natural gas leaks, 8 odor complaints, 25 spills (3 radioactive material spills, 10 mercury spills, 12 chemical spills), and 1 other miscellaneous incident.

Other Business

None.