

MINUTES

LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 27, 2011 (2101G McGavran-Greenberg)

Members Present: Lorraine Alexander, Erik Alexanian, Kimberlie Burns, Catherine Brennan, Bruna Brylawski, Dan Elliott, Ron Howell (for Pat Boone), Mary Beth Koza, Rihe Liu, Kirby Zeman

Members Absent: Rita Fuchs-Lokensgard, Katherine Hamil, Karen Hogan, Susan McMahan

Other Attendees: Deborah Howard

Meeting commenced at 3:01 pm.

Laboratory Ventilation Policy

Howard presented the updated Laboratory Ventilation Policy for committee approval. Changes made include the addition of procedures and guidelines for low-flow fume hoods, snorkels and ductless hoods. Ductless hoods will be examined on a case-by-case basis and if they are purchased will be inspected and tracked using EHS internal database. The committee approved the updated policy and it will be presented at the June USSC for final approval.

Yale Chemistry Shop Fatality

Brennan led a discussion on the recent undergraduate student fatality that occurred at Yale. EHS sent a memo to departments on campus that utilize shops and machinery in their research. Committee discussion focused on the aspect that the Yale student was working alone and whether UNC should have a stronger policy or guidance on this aspect of laboratory research. It was suggested that in an academic environment, working after hours is okay but it must be done safely. Committee members suggested that an emphasis on the buddy system and other requirements for working alone should be made in the lab safety manual, online orientation and laboratory inspection program. Koza also brought up the new RAVE system that is available to campus through Public Safety and Student Affairs which could be used as a tool by researchers working alone.

Injuries and Incidents, 1st Quarter (January-March) 2011

The Committee reviewed the log of injuries and incidents for the 1st Quarter 2011.

INJURY
Following SOP protocol, BSL3 worker reported to Emergency Room with signs and symptoms similar to exposure to BSL3 agent present in lab.
6 employees were seen at the UEOHC after a toxic chemical (Trizol) was placed in an autoclave adjacent to labs and an irritating odor spread throughout hallway.
Employee was tagging mouse ear for identification purposes when the mouse freed its head, turned around and bit the employee.
Employee was tagging the ear of a mouse when the left index finger of employee was bit.
Employee was embedding tissue and thumb was punctured by a needle taken out of tissue infected by BSL2+ agent fixed by formalin (BSL2+ agent considered inactivated).
Employee pricked finger with a syringe containing BSL2 agent while injecting mice for an experiment.
Employee cut finger when using a razor blade to dissect frozen human breast tissue.
Employee was exposed to a stray droplet of 95/2.5/2.5 trifluoroacetic acid/triisopropyl silane/water from pipette.
Employee turned a bottle of dichloromethane to look at the label and the bottle slipped from employee's hand, dropped to the ground and broke.
Employee received burn from liquid nitrogen while taking box out of liquid nitrogen storage.
Employee was cleaning a syringe when the solution containing Hexafluoropropylene (HFP) splashed out of the fume hood, hitting arms.
Employee was closing a microcentrifuge tube containing Trizol. The tube slipped out of employee's hand, hit the lab bench, and splashed the contents on employee's face.
Employee was cutting tubing with razor blade.
Employee was restraining a rat and demonstrating how to inject saline into the rat intraperitoneally. After injection was completed the employee accidentally injected themselves with the same needle while trying to put the needle down while holding the rat.
Employee was cutting masonite on table saw - stock deflected from push-stick caught on blade, and kicked back hitting end of left middle finger
Employee was moving a cart full of cages into lab. Employee was backing up with the cart through the

door and a box of ethanol had been left in the entryway. The employee backed into the box and fell backward over the box.
Employee was preparing paraformaldehyde solution, and 8% paraformaldehyde was splashed into eye.
Employee was cleaning dishes and dish soap foam got in eye. Employee experienced allergic reaction several days later.
Employee was doing intracisternal injection to large neuropathy mice and injected left index finger with mouse tissue.
Employee used dropper bottle of diaminobenzidine (DAB) and spilled some on right hand middle finger.
Employee washing face and realized that left hand was numb, there was no prior indication that anything was wrong.
Employee is experiencing skin rashes. Employee works in biomedical research using mice and cells.
Employee had hives appear on skin shortly after handling mice. Unknown if hives were caused by handling mice or possible latex allergy.
Employee was typing / foiling glassware all day and experienced discomfort.
Employee has lower back pain as a result of sitting for a long time. Sitting is result of working in front of computer to do data analysis.
Employee was moving heavy scientific equipment, equipment tipped over, hit shoulder on the way down.
Employee was trying to move important research materials from -80 freezers. Piece of metal from broken a/c unit above the freezer fell onto employee.
Employee crushed finger in vertical pipette puller when finger was caught under magnetic weight.
Employee was removing research equipment from wooded area. A small branch slid behind safety glasses and poked employee's left eye

For incidents, there were 2 fire alarms, 1 fire, 1 hood malfunction, 9 odor complaints, 4 requests for investigation, 3 chemical spills, 2 fuel spills and 1 mercury spill.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.