

MINUTES LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 23, 2012 (2101G McGavran-Greenberg)

Members Present: Lorraine Alexander, Erik Alexanian, Pat Boone, Kimberlie Burns, Catherine Brennan, Bruna Brylawski, Rita Fuchs-Lokensgard, Anthony Hackney, Karen Hogan, Mary Beth Koza, Michael Long

Members Absent: Dan Elliott, Jacob Forstater, Rihe Liu, Kirby Zeman

Meeting commenced at 3:00 pm.

Annual Review of High School Student/ Minors in Labs Policy

Brennan requested review of the policy prior to the meeting. Only one minor edit was noted – reference to “before a witness or witnesses” – which should be removed from the third bullet in the policy. Brennan commented that a reminder email was sent out to lab PIs and Safety Supervisors about the policy and EHS has already received 16 forms since the reminder was sent out.

New Chemical Fume Hood Training

Long informed the committee about a new [EHS online training module](#) focused on chemical fume hoods. The training gives an overview of how to properly use fume hoods. The training will be posted in the next week and will be a one-time training. Discussion focused on whether the training should be required for all fume hood users on campus. Currently, there is no way to flag chemical fume hood users so EHS would not have a mechanism to track compliance. It was suggested that the training should be mandatory for labs that have chemical fume hood violations identified during safety inspections. EHS will look into pursuing this as part of the CLIP program.

EHS 2011 Annual Report

Koza briefly discussed the [EHS 2011 Annual Report](#) and thanked all committee members for their participation in the safety committee structure at UNC. The LCSC is highlighted on page 45 along with committee accomplishments and goals for 2012. She also reminded members that she is willing to speak at department meetings regarding safety.

BSL2 Lab Fatality at San Francisco VA

Brennan led a discussion on the recent BSL2 lab fatality at the Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center in San Francisco involving a researcher working with *Neisseria meningitides*. Details on the infection and fatality are limited but this biological agent is used in several labs on campus here at UNC. Deb Howard (EHS Biosafety Officer) sent out an alert to inform UNC labs that have this agent registered on their lab safety plan. EHS will be setting up meetings with all labs identified to discuss safe work practices in the near future. EHS will also keep the committee updated as more details are released as to the cause of the fatality.

Injuries and Incidents, March-April 2012

The Committee reviewed the log of injuries and incidents from March through April, 2012.

INJURY
Employee was working in a bio-containment lab and noticed a tear in PPE the next day. Employee was evaluated for potential exposure.
Employee was giving an IP injection of urethane to a rat and the plunger dislodged from the needle and sprayed urethane into employees face and eyes.
Employee was pushing ethanol through biohazard tip and ethanol splashed on goggles with possible exposure to eyes.
Employee obtained a needlestick while working with a BSL2 agent.
Employee bent down to take leaking water out of a dog cage. As employee bent down, right foot slipped backwards and knee popped inward.
Employee was lifting fume hood sash and felt pain in back.
Employee was loading a centrifuge and the lid fell on employee's head.
Employee was attempting to move an incubator and it fell on employee's right hand.

For incidents, there was 1 fire, 2 fire alarms, 3 fume hood malfunctions, 2 gas leaks (natural), 18 odor complaints, 2 miscellaneous and 3 chemical spills.

Other Committee Business

Koza discussed a new draft report, [Creating Safety Cultures In Academic Institutions](#), issued by the American Chemical Society and [guidelines](#) on Biosafety in teaching labs that was drafted by American Society of Microbiology and the CDC.

Committee members signed up for a month to participate in one CLIP inspection with an EHS inspector.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.