

**UNIVERSITY SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
June 7, 2007**

Members Present: Robert Adams, Lorraine Alexander, Vicki Bradley, Carolyn Elfland, Ray Hackney, Steve Kenny, Richard Mann, Jeff McCracken, John Olsen, Christopher Payne, Bruce Runberg, Leslie Strohm

Members Absent: Lesley Marson, Mike Rolleri, Gene Scarborough, Tony Waldrop

Guests: Donii Fox, Mike McFarland, Billy Mitchell, Mary Parrish, Mary Sechriest, Cindy Taylor (UNC Hospitals),

1. Emergency Communication Improvements

Updates were provided on three initiatives to improve campus emergency communication. Leslie Strohm discussed the Emergency Warning Committee's role, and initiatives it is undertaking this summer. Presently, mass e-mail is the communication mechanism used to inform the campus during emergencies. This mechanism has been effective, but it is not fast enough to warn the community to seek shelter in imminent danger situations. Text messaging has been identified as the fastest way to reach people, the major challenge being to collect cell phone numbers in advance. The Emergency Warning Committee is considering who could trigger a message, whether all the correct people have appropriate devices, whether all the lists of correct people have been created, whether there are training needs, and how we can better communicate with the Town of Chapel Hill. Jeff McCracken discussed the proposed siren system. The system will have an audible tone as well as public address capability for pre-recorded or short live messages. Protocols for use will need to be developed. Bids have been received and are under consideration at this time. Mike McFarland discussed PIER – Public Information Emergency Response Communication Management System. This is a system that has been purchased by General Administration in response to Hurricane Katrina, and 12 campuses are participating in its implementation. PIER has many uses, including message templates, databases of contact information for key people and vendors, background information on the campus including maps and photos, and draft documents. Core groups involved in the implementation include Public Safety, Environment, Health and Safety, University Relations, and Business Continuity. Cindy Taylor noted that UNC Hospitals is undergoing Aggressive Mangement training, targeted toward training people how to identify people capable of violence such as the Virginia Tech shooter.

2. Lead in Drinking Water

Ray Hackney discussed the recent episode of lead in drinking water. This problem surfaced in March after building occupants complained of bad taste and odor in Caudill Labs and Chapman Hall, and lead was found in mid-April. Marc Edwards, Charles P. Lunsford Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Virginia Tech, and an internationally-recognized expert in lead in drinking water was retained to lead the investigation into the problem. Water also was tested in the Campus Y, ITS Manning and the FedEx Global Education Center, all recently occupied after renovation or construction. Water in the FedEx Global Education Center showed no signs of elevated lead levels, but tests in the other buildings showed elevated lead levels in some water samples so University officials restricted water use and supplied bottled water for drinking. The lead problem arose because very pure drinking waters, such as that serving as the water supply for the campus, have a high tendency to leach lead from new brass plumbing devices. The high natural corrosivity of the drinking water is mostly countered at the water treatment plant by raising pH and adding corrosion inhibitors, but the distributed water is still corrosive enough to cause lead to leach at levels above the EPA standard. The problem can be resolved over time as water flows through the brass fixtures, because a protective film eventually forms that protects the plumbing and reduces lead leaching. Flushing the water lines hastens the formation of the protective film. EHS and Facilities Services personnel flushed the water lines in these affected buildings according to Edwards' instructions, and sampled each device to ensure there were no elevated lead levels before unrestricted water use was allowed in the buildings. The last building was released for unrestricted

water use on May 29. Edwards came to the campus last month to discuss updated test results and answer questions from people who work and study in the affected buildings.

To further verify that the situation has been resolved, later this summer EHS officials will assess water samples from about 10 fixtures in each of the four campus buildings. The higher temperatures in water during the summer maximize the likelihood of finding any remaining lead problems, even though existing data prove that lead is not a problem at present.

The latest findings and the PowerPoint presentation Edwards gave during the May meeting are available on the EHS web site, www.ehs.unc.edu. A press release describing Edwards' earlier work on brass is available at the National Science Foundation web site at the following addresss http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=104334).

The Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA), which provides water in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro area, has contracted with Edwards to advise them regarding ways to further reduce the leaching effect of their water, and has begun testing the drinking water at several new buildings to evaluate whether there is a link between newly installed plumbing and the potential for lead contamination. For more information about the OWASA testing, refer to www.owasa.org.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.