

MINUTES

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE, LABORATORY ENVIRONMENT

Tuesday, June 20, 2000 (2101G McGavran-Greenberg)

Members present: Mike Fisher, James Gilbert, Ray Hackney, Kathryn Hamil, Liska Lackey, Jim Morken, Diane Shugars, Sheldon Wiggins, Kirby Zeman

Members absent: Lorraine Alexander, Bonnie Taylor-Blake, Todd Gambling, Richard Hanes, Kevin Dudley, Lola Reid, Paula Murphy

Minutes for the meeting held on April 4, 2000 were approved.

REVIEW OF INCIDENTS/INJURIES IN THE LABORATORY ENVIRONMENT

During March through May there were 8 laboratory injuries, which are listed below:

- Animal allergies improved with changes in work practices and use of PPE.
- Employee was pouring liquid tissue culture waste (media and Clorox) into sink when a drop of the liquid splashed into right eye.
- Cut finger with razor blade while attempting to cut tubing.
- Cut finger when putting plastic spacer into metal.
- Employee was attempting to open door that uses security card, door opened and cut employee on forehead, requiring stitches.
- Employee was bitten while attempting to restrain cat that was administered anesthetic.
- Injured foot while stepping down from ladder.
- Employee was bitten while attempting to restrain mouse.

Thirty-five laboratory incidents were also reviewed. There were 19 odor complaints, 11 mercury spills, 4 chemical spills, 1 natural gas leak.

REVIEW OF TRAINING MODULES FOR NEW EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION

Two training modules were reviewed: reducing the use of mercury in laboratories, and laboratory ergonomics. Several suggestions to improve the material were made.

LABORATORY CLIP INSPECTIONS SUMMARY

A summary of the laboratory CLIP inspections for March to May 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	34 %
Excellent	1 inspection with no violations or only 1 <i>de-minimus</i>	32%
Good	1 non-serious violations and/or < 5 <i>de-minimus</i>	22%
Poor	2 or more Non-serious or ≥ 5 <i>de-minimus</i> ; repeat violation	6%
Unacceptable	1 or more serious violations (corrected immediately)	6%

IMPROVING CUSTOMER SERVICE

The committee discussed ideas for improving Health and Safety Office customer service for the laboratory environment. The following ideas were discussed:

- 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 listserve for PIs to disseminate safety information.
- Posting laboratory safety plan dates on web.
- Notifying investigators prior to inspections.

COMMITTEE GOALS FOR 2000-01

The following goals were discussed: 1. Evaluate the effectiveness of the Laboratory Safety orientation course. 2. Review health and safety policies and procedure and recommend changes to the Pan University Safety Policy Committee. 3. Review employee complaints and incidents involving work-related fatalities, injuries, and illnesses. 4. Investigate the use of mercury in laboratories and encourage the use of mercury free equipment. 5. Identifying changes in policies and procedures to make HSO services more customer friendly to lab workers. 6. Incorporate laboratory ergonomics into new employee orientation training programs.