

MINUTES

LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, July 25, 2007 (2005 MHRC)

Members Present: Lorraine Alexander, Kimberlie Burns, Howard Fried, Kirby Zeman, Rihe Liu, Bonnie Taylor-Blake, Susan Cheek, Katherine Hamil, Brent Webber

Members Absent: Bruna Brylawski, Jeff Johnson, Rita Fuchs-Lokensgard, Carolyn Bishop, James Gilbert, Liska Lackey, Ray Hackney

Others Present: Jeff Edwards and Rebecca Cho (Risk Management Services), Donii Fox and Darren Trembl (EHS)

Meeting commenced at 3:00pm. Minutes from the meeting of April 25, 2007 were reviewed and approved.

Pandemic Planning for Laboratories

Edwards gave a presentation and shared a copy of the Pandemic Influenza – Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), and explained several of the assumptions that were made for planning purposes. During a recognized pandemic, the University is prepared to shut down and encourage social distancing to prevent viral spread, with only essential “skeleton” crews in place for vital functions. Influenza virulence and resulting attack rates and employee absenteeism cannot be precisely known ahead of time, but can be estimated based on lessons from past pandemics. Each department and lab unit still needs to examine the COOP model and determine which critical functions must remain staffed, and how this will be done.

Revised Exposure Control Plan for Laboratories

Fox and Trembl distributed a copy of the proposed new BBP Exposure Control Plan for Laboratories, and explained some of the major changes in the policy. Due to time constraints, the Committee was asked to review the policy after the meeting and respond directly to EHS with any concerns they might have. Several “safer” sharps devices were also distributed to Committee members to test.

Injuries and Incidents, April-June 2007

The Committee reviewed and discussed the log of injuries and incidents for the 2nd Quarter 2007.

INJURY TYPE	DESCRIPTION
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE: OBJECT BEING LIFTED OR HANDLED	Employee was moving stir plate. When stir plate caught on doorway, middle and ring finger on left hand were cut on metal strip on door.
MISC: ABSORPTION, INGESTION, OR INHALATION	Employee was attempting to autoclave dirty mouse cages and dropped one on floor and spilled bedding. Animals infected with VEE. Sera samples sent to CDC Fort Collins for follow-up testing.
MISC: ABSORPTION, INGESTION, OR INHALATION	Postdoc cut finger on broken glass that might have been contaminated with ³⁵ S. RSO determined negligible exposure but collected urine sample. Results were negative for exposure.
MISC: BLOOD EXPOSURE – NEEDLESTICK	Research specialist was cleaning up after blood draw from pigs infected with leptospirosis and uncapped, used needle was in bench paper to be disposed. Employee picked up bench paper to dispose and was stuck. Received leptospirosis titer and tetanus booster and prescribed doxycycline.
MISC: BLOOD EXPOSURE – SCALPEL, OTHER EQUIPMENT, ETC.	Employee noticed hole in glove and cut knuckle while lysing white blood cells.
MISC: FOREIGN MATTER IN EYE	Employee not wearing eye protection received splash to the eye while preparing SDS polyacrylamide gel. Flushed eye for 15 minutes.
MISC: OTHER, MISC., NOC	Grad student wanted to clean out -20 refrigerator at 11pm and received spill of purple substance (DAB Metal 10X Concentrate) on hands. Washed hands for 15 minutes, put on gloves and cleaned up spill. Woke up next morning at 5am with numbness in hands, eyes swollen shut, and face red. Called University Police who advised to go to ED. Remained in ED from ~6:45am to ~9:30am while Chemtrec and poison control were contacted. Symptoms resolved while in ED and discharged. Follow-up by UEOHC found all symptoms had resolved.

MISC: OTHER, MISC., NOC	When employee was trying to recap needle used to inject anesthesia, inoculated finger. Mice infected with parvovirus but did not pose risk to employee.
MISC: OTHER, MISC., NOC	Employee dropped cage of mice infected with SARS. Follow-up was negative for infection.
MISC: OTHER, MISC., NOC	Employee was trying to recap needle before disposal and stuck right index finger. Needle was used to inject saline and gentamicin into mouse that had been fed on for 24 hrs. by ticks infected with <i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i> . Will continue to see UEHOC for follow-up.
STRAIN: REPETITIVE MOTION (carpal tunnel syndrome)	Professor complaining of back pain while writing grant proposal. Receiving ergonomic evaluation and is now pain-free.
STRUCK OR INJURED BY: ANIMAL OR INSECT (bee sting)	Research scientist received mouse bite on left index finger. Received tetanus booster at UEOHC.
STRUCK OR INJURED BY: ANIMAL OR INSECT (bee sting)	Employee received animal bite and experienced shortness of breath. While at UEOHC symptoms worsened and employee went to ED. Symptoms resolved at ED and employee returned to UEOHC.

For incidents, there were 19 spills (13 of them mercury), one blood spill, four gas leaks, nine odor calls, and one miscellaneous incident.

Meeting adjourned 4:25pm.