

**MINUTES**  
**LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
 Wednesday, July 26, 2006 (2101-G McGavran-Greenberg)

**Members Present:** Lorraine Alexander, Kimberlie Burns, Bruna Brylawski, Katherine Hamil, Bonnie Taylor-Blake, Jeff Johnson, Howard Fried, Ray Hackney, James Gilbert, Brent Webber

**Members Absent:** Richard Hanes, Rihe Liu, Rita Fuchs-Lokensgard, Kirby Zeman, Liska Lackey, Carolyn Bishop

Meeting commenced at 2:30pm. Minutes from the meeting of April 26, 2006 were reviewed and approved.

**Welcome to new Committee members:** New Committee members Johnson and Fried were introduced and welcomed.

**Online Laboratory Safety Plan (LSP) Update:** The online-submission version of the LSP is still tentatively slated for rollout in early 2007. Researchers will be able to review and edit their "saved" plans both before and after submittal. The Committee supports continuing the requirement that labs maintain an accessible printed copy of the LSP. The Committee discussed the problem of floor plans. Floor plans are not simple to create on-screen, and labs/departments might not have access to scanners to create digital copies of hand drawings. EHS representative agreed to talk to the programmers working on the online LSP to determine how floor plans can be submitted in the most straightforward manner.

**Injuries and Incidents, April-June 2006**

The Committee reviewed and discussed the log of injuries and incidents for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2006.

<b>INJURY TYPE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
CAUGHT IN, UNDER, or BETWEEN: MACHINE OR MACHINERY	Student was servicing pneumatic amplifier pump when guard was removed. Finger got caught and fractured. Finger received cut when student pulled it from pump.
CAUGHT IN, UNDER, or BETWEEN: OBJECT HANDLED	Employee was securing a specimen block on cryostat with lever which pushed the block and thumb over knife.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE: BROKEN GLASS	Employee received cut to finger when Pasteur pipet broke while pipetting.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE:	Employee was transferring a rat that was not used to being handled from one cage to another and was bitten by the rat.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE:	Employee was walking down hallway; when he moved to avoid large cart he was struck by walk-in incubator door being opened and received cuts on left arm.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE: HAND TOOL, UTENSIL (not powered, e.g. screwdriver fell on toe)	Employee was scraping tape off a glass bottle with a single-edge razor blade. When razor blade slipped employee received laceration on left thumb.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE: OBJECT BEING LIFTED OR HANDLED	Employee was cutting open box of dry ice with scissors which slipped, cutting the index finger of left hand.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE: POWERED HAND TOOL, APPLIANCE (e.g. drill slipped and hit finger)	Employee lost concentration for a second at microtome when left index finger slipped onto blade.
MISC: ABSORPTION, INGESTION, OR INHALATION	Employee observed rash and supervisor became concerned that it might be work related. Employee is working with antibiotics in solvent and wearing PPE.
MISC: BLOOD EXPOSURE - NEEDLESTICK	Employee was withdrawing sterile saline from 250ml bag when needle slipped and stuck left pinky finger. All materials in question were sterile.
MISC: FOREIGN MATTER IN EYE	Employee was attempting to perfuse mouse with 4% paraformaldehyde when solution backsplashed into employee's right eye.
MISC: OTHER, MISC., NOC	Employee was homogenizing cells infected with Epstein-Barr virus with electric homogenizer when tube started to spin, and material was

	splashed onto employee's face and arms.
STRAIN: PUSHING OR PULLING (e.g. pushing a cart)	Employee was moving a 50-pound stone from 7 <sup>th</sup> floor Wilson Library to Hamilton Hall and felt a pop in left shoulder.
STRAIN: REPETITIVE MOTION (carpal tunnel syndrome)	Employee complained of wrist/arm pain after carrying two mouse cages for several blocks. Associates pain with pipetting work.
STRIKING AGAINST OR STEPPING ON: STATIONARY OBJECT	Research technician was collecting soil samples in Duke Forest at 2 minute intervals while working around mechanical lift used to conduct research in forest canopy. Employee had to navigate around lift because of limited space and hit head. Noticed swelling later in day but did not seek medical treatment at ED until next day.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE: BROKEN GLASS	Housekeeper was pulling trash and cut finger on sharps in bag from laboratory building.

Burns noted that personnel often are cut on Microtomes during block changing because the lock is broken or not used.

For incidents, there were thirteen odor calls, twelve chemical spills (ten of which were mercury), two explosions, two blood spills, one lost radiation source, one tripped fire alarm, and three miscellaneous incidents.

### **Laboratory Self-Inspection Checklist**

Gilbert and Webber discussed a plan to provide a laboratory self-inspection checklist in the new Laboratory Safety Manual (LSM). This would be an additional tool for lab personnel to assess their lab's safety performance, but would NOT replace the CLIP inspections performed by EHS personnel. Labs would not be required to "turn in" their self-inspection checklists to EHS. After debating the value of such a self-inspection checklist, the Committee endorsed the inclusion of such a checklist in the next LSM.

The Committee was presented with two different checklists and was asked which would be a better model for the new self-inspection checklist. The Committee overwhelmingly chose a single-page 15-section checklist originally developed by the EH&S Department at New Mexico State University. This checklist will be adapted with minor modifications and included in the next LSM.

Meeting adjourned 3:30pm.