

MINUTES

LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 25, 2013 (2101G McGavran-Greenberg)

Members Present: Lorraine Alexander, Pat Boone, Catherine Brennan, Nita Eskew, Anthony Hackney, Mary Beth Koza, Rihe Liu, Michael Long, Kirby Zeman

Members Absent: Bruna Brylawski, Kimberlie Burns, Jacob Forstater, Rita Fuchs-Lokensgard, Karen Hogan

Meeting commenced at 3:00 pm.

GHS Compliance/Implementation

Brennan presented progress so far on GHS implementation and current compliance levels. OSHA adopted the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) at the end of 2012 as part of the Hazard Communication standard (29 CFR 1910.1200). The HazCom standard requires that employees be informed of the hazards of chemicals they work with or are present in their work area. GHS implementation dates are staggered and involve several components including training, labeling and safety data sheets. The first date to meet is December 1, 2013 when all employees must be trained on the new GHS elements. Currently, ~10,500 University employees (full-time, part-time and temporary) have taken the one-time online training and EHS is utilizing several communication tools to ensure compliance by the due date including the Compliance Portal, Lab Safety Plan Training Compliance page and the "Avert" lab safety newsletter.

UCLA Update and Gap Analysis

Brennan gave an update to the committee on the UCLA fatality criminal lawsuit and UC System integration of Cal/OSHA settlement. The UC System has finished implementing changes to their lab safety program across all campuses including: general lab safety training, better enforcement of PPE policies, and documentation of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for hazardous chemicals. A gap analysis was performed comparing UC System lab safety program and current UNC lab safety program. After analysis, several ideas were discussed with the committee including instituting lab safety refresher training every 5 years and starting a lab coat cleaning campaign to make people aware of service and need for keeping lab coats clean. EHS has also added a new section to the lab safety plan focused on SOPs which will allow labs to upload these documents to their lab safety plan. The refresher training and lab coat cleaning campaign will be investigated further and an action plan will be drawn up and presented at the next LCSC meeting.

Injuries and Incidents, July-August 2013

The Committee reviewed the log of injuries and incidents from July through August, 2013.

INJURY TYPE	INJURY
Animal Bite	Employee was ear tagging mice and received mouse bite.
Animal Bite	Employee was bit by rat during handling.
Blood Exposure, Splash	Employee was dissecting a mouse brain and a droplet of blood was squirted into employee's eye.
Burn or Scald, Heat or Cold	Employee received minor burn/irritation on face after spill occurred while using centrifuge rotor to spin down bacteria.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	Employee was cut while training someone to use a microtome (tissue slicer) and failed to engage the safety lock while exchanging specimens within the chuck.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	Employee was using a syringe to inject liquid into a flask. When the syringe was removed from the septum it slipped and stabbed employee's finger.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	Employee was opening an industrial type of aluminum foil when their thumb slipped onto serrated edge and cut finger.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	Employee was punctured by a glass shard when grabbing a tool.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	Employee was opening a dry ice box with scissors and scissors slipped, cutting finger.
Strain, Repetitive Motion	Employee has lower back and wrist pain when working at desk and computer.

Strain, Repetitive Motion	Employee experienced pain with chronic repetitive computer work using mouse and keyboard.
Striking Against or Stepping On	Employee was removing PPE in Berryhill DLAM area and a piece of glass got into shoe during process. Employee stepped down and received a puncture wound in toe on left foot.
Struck or Injured By	Employee was pushing start button on lab dishwasher in common room when one of the stainless steel panels fell from above and hit employee's head.

For incidents, there were 2 fire alarms, 1 fume hood malfunction, 1 natural gas leak, 1 miscellaneous, 12 odor complaints, 2 chemical spills and 1 mercury spill.

Other Committee Business

Koza mentioned that EHS offers fire extinguisher training which is available to all departments by request.

Brennan passed around the new *Innovate Safely* t-shirts that are being sent to all new registered lab workers as a welcome gift and to remind them to work safely.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.