

MINUTES
LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 8, 2003 (2101G McGavran-Greenberg)

Members present: Kirby Zeman, Kim Burns, Diane Shugars, Bonnie Taylor-Blake, Bruna Brylawski, Elizabeth Guthrie, James Gilbert, Ray Hackney

Members absent: Mike Fisher, Liska Lackey, Jim Morken, Lorraine Alexander, Katherine Hamil

Also present: Rich Miller of Environment Health and Safety

Minutes for the meeting on July 16, 2003 were approved.

Hazardous Waste Issues for Labs

Rich Miller discussed hazardous waste issues for research labs and passed out documents discussing the importance of securing lids on waste bottles, having proper labeling on containers, having secondary containment in the event of container leaks, and accumulating waste at the point of generation. He also explained information that is available on the EHS website for hazardous waste.

Hurricane Advisory for Research Laboratories

The hurricane advisory for research laboratories was reviewed. It was suggested that additional warnings could be added to warn researchers of the possible power outage and flooding, and to take the necessary precautions.

Accidents and Incidents in Lab Buildings

James Gilbert distributed documents that listed the incidents and injuries that occurred in lab building during the past year. The following injuries were reviewed:

| Department | Injury |
|------------------------------|---|
| MEDICINE | An employee's hand was punctured between the left thumb and wrist (palm side), while opening a package with a pair of scissors. |
| ENVIRONMENT SCIENCES & ENGI | Employee was rinsing acid from glassware in sink, the glassware struck the bottom of the sink and acid splashed across face. |
| PEDIATRICS | Employee pricked left thumb while examining human bone marrow sample. |
| MEDICINE | Employee received rat bite on left long finger while checking on animal in animal room of MEJB. |
| BIOCHEMISTRY & BIOPHYSICS | Employee was inserting glass pipet into pipet aid when the pipet broke and cut tip of right index finger. |
| LCCC | An O2 tank regulator slipped and fell on employee's right hand, causing small laceration. |
| PATHOLOGY & LAB MEDICINE | Glass joint for a flash chromatography column broke while attempting to separate it and small piece of glass flew into right eye. |
| INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCES | IMS employee stepped on nail that went through shoe and punctured foot. |
| SCHOOL OF PHARMACY | Allergic rhinitis from exposure to research guinea pigs. |
| DENTAL RESEARCH | Employee was working with cells in BSC when she felt something wet on her lips. |
| BIOCHEMISTRY & BIOPHYSICS | Needlestick to left hand. |

For incidents during July to September there were: 24 odor complaints in lab buildings; 18 spills, 6 of which were mercury spills; and 1 other miscellaneous incident.

Other Business

One of the members brought to the committee's attention some unsafe conditions in another institution's labs located on campus. A letter will be sent to EHS describing these conditions. EHS will report back to the committee on the status of this at the next meeting in January.