

MINUTES
LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE
 Wednesday, October 25, 2006 (2101-G McGavran-Greenberg)

Members Present: Kimberlie Burns, Bruna Brylawski, Bonnie Taylor-Blake, Mary Robert Garrett (for Jeff Johnson), Howard Fried, Kirby Zeman, Rita Fuchs-Lokensgard, Susan McMahan, Carolyn Bishop, James Gilbert, Brent Webber

Members Absent: Lorraine Alexander, Katherine Hamil, Richard Hanes, Rihe Liu, Liska Lackey, Ray Hackney

Others Present: Jeanne Hiesel and John Rawlings, ITS

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

Welcome to new Committee members: New Committee members Fuchs-Lokensgard and McMahan were welcomed. All Committee members introduced themselves and described the primary lab safety and health challenges in their respective departments.

Online Chemical Inventory System: Hiesel gave a demonstration of the new online Chemical Inventory System, which will be part of the new online Lab Safety Plan Schedule B, and distributed a users guide for the application. The system is still in pre-production, but mostly functional. Users will be able to enter detailed inventories for all substances, or simply inventory by aggregate totals per compatibility group. Users must log in with ONYEN and password, and cannot edit the inventories of other personnel unless they have administrative privileges. A functional demonstration was given, followed by a question and answer session.

Gloves Outside of Labs: The Committee was given proposed new text for the UNC Lab Safety Manual which addressed the frequent concern/complaint about researchers wearing gloves outside of labs. If these gloves are contaminated, they could contaminate doorknobs, elevator buttons, plumbing fixtures, etc. Even if they are not contaminated, it still creates unease for passersby. The Committee approved the new text, which closely followed an earlier advisory e-mail sent to the Principal Investigator listserv.

Injuries and Incidents, July-September 2006

The Committee reviewed and discussed the log of injuries and incidents for the 3rd Quarter 2006.

INJURY TYPE	DESCRIPTION
BURN OR SCALD, HEAT OR COLD: BOILING WATER SPLASHED ON SKIN	Research assistant was emptying autoclave of another groups samples and received 1st and 2nd degree burns from hot water.
BURN OR SCALD, HEAT OR COLD: CHEMICALS (e.g., picked up battery, got acid on hand)	Undergraduate researcher was performing chloroform/methanol extractions of bacterial lipoproteins in solution. Solution was in glass centrifugation tube that broke while researcher was sealing it. Solution splashed on left wrist and went under protective gloves. Area was rinsed for 10 minutes and researcher went to UEOHC.
BURN OR SCALD, HEAT OR COLD: CHEMICALS (e.g., picked up battery, got acid on hand)	Researcher was training an undergraduate on RNA extraction procedure. Procedure used 1.5 mL tubes with < 1 mL of phenol/chloroform. Homogenizer beads became trapped in tube and researcher attempted to dislodge them from the bottom by tapping the lid, the lid broke off and the contents splashed on lower left arm. Washed area for 5 minutes.
CAUGHT IN, UNDER, OR BETWEEN: CAUGHT IN, UNDER OR BETWEEN	Postdoctoral fellow was rinsing glass flasks in sink. Flask was dropped employee received cut on palm of left hand.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE: BROKEN GLASS	Research technician disposing broken glass cut tip of right index finger.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE: CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE	Postdoctoral research fellow was placing rubber pipette bulb on a glass Pasteur pipette when the pipette broke and glass enter the palm of left hand. Employee went to Student Health.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE: CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE	Lab technician was moving freezer with hand truck and did not notice light ballast on top of unit. When freezer was moved, ballast fell off and hit employee on left arm, causing an abrasion.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE:	Postdoctoral research reports a non-research related injury. Employee

CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE	cut tip of left thumb on razor blade left in desk drawer by previous occupant.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE: HAND TOOL, UTENSIL (not powered, e.g., screw driver fell on toe)	Histology technician sectioning tissue on microtome repositioned blade to use sharper portion. When tech clamped knife into place, left thumb slipped and tip of thumb was cut.
FALL, SLIP OR TRIP: FALL FROM DIFFERENT LEVEL (e.g., from second story bldg. off wall)	Research technician climbed onto lab bench to retrieve supplies from top shelf. While climbing down she used chair with wheels to steady herself. Chair gave way and employee fell to floor with impact to left side of her body. Employee did not use labs' stepladder.
FALL, SLIP OR TRIP: FALL FROM LIQUID OR GREASE SPILLS	Research technician was walking to retrieve documents from printer and walked through water that had accumulated by dry ice container. Employee slipped and fell on left knee.
FALL, SLIP OR TRIP: FALL FROM LIQUID OR GREASE SPILLS	Research technician was collecting air samples in Duke Forest and slipped on wet boardwalk.
FALL, SLIP OR TRIP: FALL, SLIP OR TRIP	Employee fell from chair when retrieving supplies. Used right arm to brace himself and hurt wrist and hand.
MISC: ABSORPTION, INGESTION OR INHALATION	Professor in research lab complaining of sore throat possibly due to chemical exposures in lab.
MISC: FOREIGN MATTER IN EYE	Graduate student in research lab was pouring chloroform/methanol and a small drop went into right eye. Employee was wearing goggles. Eyes were flushed for 10 and employee went to ED. Left ED when not seen. Went to UEOHC 12 hours later.
MISC: FOREIGN MATTER IN EYE	Teaching assistant was preparing equipment for research project. Cup containing 4% formaldehyde was knocked to floor and drop splashed into eye. Employee rinsed eye and went to ED. Employee was not wearing eye protection.
MISC: OTHER, MISC., NOC	Professor suffered torn meniscus in right knee while collecting field samples from remote lakes in Alaska.
STRAIN: REPETITIVE MOTION (carpal tunnel syndrome)	Research technician complained of wrist pain during pipetting and lifting animal cages. Went to primary health care provider and received diagnosis of CTS.

For incidents, there were 19 spills (16 of them mercury), 11 odor calls, two calls for lost radionuclide sources, and two miscellaneous incidents.

Meeting adjourned 3:30pm.