

MINUTES
LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, October 26, 2005 (2101G McGavran-Greenberg)

Members Present: Kimberlie Burns, Richard Hanes, Bonnie Taylor-Blake, Jim Morken, Bruna Brylawski, Lorraine Alexander, Kirby Zeman, Nicole Duncan, James Gilbert, Brent Webber, Carolyn Bishop

Members Absent: Ray Hackney, Mike Fisher, Liska Lackey, Diane Shugars, Katherine Hamil, Elizabeth Guthrie

Others Present: Pete Reinhardt, EHS Director

Meeting commenced at 2:30pm. Minutes from the meeting of July 27, 2005 were reviewed and approved.

New University Compliance Line: Pete Reinhardt distributed information and talked briefly about the new University Compliance Line. Federal guidelines require the creation of an anonymous reporting option for specific types of compliance concerns. The Compliance Line will allow for reporting of regulatory, legal, or ethical concerns in the following areas: research, finance, HIPAA, or EHS. Reports can be filed anonymously, and reports will be held securely on the systems of an outside vendor (EthicsPoint, based in Portland, OR), rather than on campus systems. This is an additional reporting option, required by Federal rules, that is not intended to replace existing communication channels or methods but to supplement them.

Injuries and Incidents, July-September 2005

The log of injuries and incidents for the 3rd quarter 2005 was reviewed and discussed. For injuries, there were three animal bites, one burn, six cuts, one blood/OPIM exposure, three chemical exposures, two strains, and three struck-by injuries. For incidents, there were seventeen odor calls, nineteen chemical spills (thirteen of which were mercury), one water spill, and three miscellaneous events.

Proposed New Universal Signage System for Lab Entrances

This item was discussed extensively at the last meeting, and James gave a brief overview to benefit the Committee members that missed the last meeting.

New Chemical Safety/MSDS Database

The Committee was informed that EHS had recently subscribed to the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health & Safety Academic Support Program. This subscription is valid for all computer terminals on the UNC TCP/IP network. The program includes the Registry of Toxic Effects of Chemical Substances (RTECS) database, another database called ChemInfo, and an MSDS database that is continually updated and contains over 200,000 MSDSs.

Meeting adjourned 3:30pm.