

MINUTES
LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, November 20, 2013 (3005 Michael Hooker Research Center)

Members Present: Lorraine Alexander, Pat Boone, Catherine Brennan, Bruna Brylawski, Kimberlie Burns, Nita Eskew, Rita Fuchs-Lokensgard, Anthony Hackney, Karen Hogan, Michael Long, Kirby Zeman

Members Absent: Jacob Forstater, Mary Beth Koza, Rihe Liu

Others Present: John Covely (Public Communications Specialist, EHS)

Meeting commenced at 3:05 pm.

PPE Campaign

Covely gave an update on the PPE campaign and passed around photos and copy which will run on digital boards in campus laboratory buildings starting in January 2014. The photos will include various researchers from the different Schools and departments on campus where laboratory work takes place. The theme was discussed with the committee and a suggestion was made that posters should be printed for those laboratory buildings that do not have digital boards.

Lab Safety Refresher Training

The committee discussed a proposal for a lab safety refresher quiz that would be given every 3 or 5 years. If a researcher did not receive 100% on the ten question quiz they would be required to take refresher training. The training would cover Fire Safety and Egress, Hazard Signage/HazCom Pictographs, Safety Data Sheets, Physical Hazard/Health Hazard/Routes of Exposure, Safety Controls (Engineering/Administrative/PPE), Hazardous Waste and What to do in an Emergency. The committee decided to table discussion of this topic until January since there were various opinions on the merits of a general refresher training versus a more robust annual PI specific lab safety plan training.

Lab Coat Cleaning Campaign

Brennan passed out a flyer that will be sent out with minutes and posted on website to educate and encourage labs to clean their lab coats on a periodic basis. UNC Laundry Services contracts with an outside vendor that is equipped to handle potentially contaminated lab coats for the University. This service can be set up as a scheduled pickup or on a call-in basis. The service includes pick-up, washing, pressing, folding and delivery of clean lab coats for less than \$2/coat. EHS recommends that each lab member have 2 coats so that one is available for use while the other is being laundered.

Injuries and Incidents, September-October 2013

The Committee reviewed the log of injuries and incidents from September through October, 2013.

INJURY TYPE	INJURY
Absorption, Ingestion or Inhalation	Employee was potentially exposed to UV lighting during tissue culture work.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	Glassware broke during washing and employee cut hand.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	Employee scratched a tiny piece of skin off the back of the middle finger of the right hand during measurement of human plasma sample. Employee washed the scratch with copious amounts of water.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	Employee was cutting frozen liver for microtonal prep work & cut right index finger w/scalpel.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	Employee was taking a 30 gauge needle cap off of needle while attached to 10 ml syringe. Employee's hands recoiled when cap came off and needle tip went into left index finger.
Fall, Slip or Trip	Employee slipped on a freshly mopped floor in the Women's restroom. No signs present at the time.
Strain	Employee was bending to put mouse cage to the lower side of a rack and

	experienced pain.
Strain	Employee turned in chair and stood up to take paper to co-worker's mailbox. Employee experienced severe back pain and legs gave out.
Striking Against or Stepping On	Employee was trying to pry open a mouse crate and smashed left hand into the sash of work hood (hand slipped trying to pry it up).

For incidents, there were 5 fire alarms, 3 fume hood malfunctions, 3 miscellaneous, 9 odor complaints, 2 chemical spills and 2 mercury spills.

Other Committee Business

Brennan updated the committee on GHS training compliance which is going well with >15,000 UNC employees trained so far. The December 1st deadline is rapidly approaching and at the next meeting we will have a better idea of numbers for laboratory workers.

The committee thanked Rita Fuchs-Lokensgard for her many years of service and wished her luck on her new position.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.