

MINUTES

LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 28, 2012 (2101G McGavran-Greenberg)

Members Present: Lorraine Alexander, Pat Boone, Catherine Brennan, Bruna Brylawski, Nita Eskew, Jacob Forstater, Karen Hogan, Mary Beth Koza, Michael Long

Members Absent: Kimberlie Burns, Dan Elliott, Rita Fuchs-Lokensgard, Anthony Hackney, Rihe Liu, Kirby Zeman

Others Present: Jonathan Moore

Meeting commenced at 3:05 pm.

UCLA Incident Gap Analysis

Brennan presented a comparison between the UNC-CH lab safety program and items listed in the University of California System agreement made with Cal/OSHA as a result of lab fatality at UCLA in 2009. UNC already has in place a majority of the items but a few areas will be expanded: establishment of a formal mechanism to determine when new lab Principal Investigators arrive on campus to ensure compliance; addition of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) section to the lab safety plan system to allow labs to upload SOP documents; new policy on the Safe Use of Pyrophoric Reagents; more informational materials regarding PPE (lab coat laundering, prescription safety glasses, etc). Brennan will update committee as items are completed.

EHS Non-compliance Process for Lab Environment

The committee discussed writing a specific policy or process for non-compliance. Examples of lab non-compliance include overdue lab safety plans, items found during inspections not being corrected, training non-compliance and accident/incident forms not being completed. Suggestions were made that the LCSC become involved in the process to ensure closure. EHS will generate a process map and bring to the next meeting for discussion and approval.

Injuries and Incidents, September-October 2012

The Committee reviewed the log of injuries and incidents from September through October, 2012.

INJURY TYPE	INJURY
Absorption, Ingestion or Inhalation	Employee was relocating unknown chemicals in secondary containment. Container was opened and fumes were noticed. Chemical was discovered to be phosgene.
Absorption, Ingestion or Inhalation	Two employees were exposed to viral spill outside biological safety cabinet while in full PPE.
Animal Bite	Employee was ear-tagging mice when one bit them on middle finger.
Animal Bite	Employee was bitten by mouse through glove but did not appear to break skin.
Animal Bite	Employee was bitten by a mouse.
Animal Bite	Employee was bitten by mouse during mouse handling class.
Animal Bite	Employee was handling mice in sterile hood with gloves on and mouse bit through glove on left index finger.
Blood Exposure – Needlestick	Employee stuck themselves through puncture resistant gloves while uncapping a new needle.
Blood Exposure – Needlestick	Employee was putting a needle in its plastic sheath, went through sheath and stuck middle finger ¼ inch deep.
Blood Exposure – Needlestick	Employee was injecting a drug into a potentially infectious guinea pig subcutaneously and needle penetrated guinea pig skin and then glove.
Blood	Employee was giving a mouse an interperitoneal (IP) injection of anesthetic. As needle

Exposure – Needlestick	was drawn out the needle grazed employees glove and skin.
Burn or Scald, Heat or Cold: Chemicals	Employee was dissolving rock in hydrofluoric acid and experienced burning on face. Employee washed face but later that evening still had burning sensation so went to ER.
Burn or Scald, Heat or Cold: Fire or Flame	Employee was heat fixing slices with a Bunsen burner and sleeve of DLAM PPE caught on fire.
Caught In, Under, Or Between	Employee was removing box from pallet and left foot and ankle became wedged.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	Employees hand slipped while opening razor blade resulting in a small gash in the middle finger of the left hand.
Fall, Slip or Trip	Employee fell backwards approximately 4 feet while putting journals on a shelf.
Foreign Matter in Eye	Employee was evaluating mouse for melanoma when mouse urinated which splashed employee in right eye.
Misc: Other than Physical Cause of Injury	Employee passed out during mouse training class and hit head.
Strain: Repetitive Motion	Employee was doing repetitive pipetting and developed chronic pain in wrist.
Strain: Repetitive Motion	Employee developed pain in wrist after doing computer work.
Strain: Repetitive Motion	Employee developed pain after typing proposals and processing paperwork.

For incidents, there was 1 fire, 4 fire alarms, 3 fume hoods, 2 miscellaneous, 6 odor complaints and 3 chemical spills.

Other Committee Business

Hogan showed an example of positive reinforcement she uses in her lab for PPE compliance. Koza mentioned the PPE survey that went out to all registered lab researchers. EHS is currently analyzing the data and will give summary at next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.