

MINUTES

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE, LABORATORY ENVIRONMENT

Tuesday, December 7, 1999 (2101G McGavran-Greenberg)

Members present: Bonnie Taylor-Blake, Todd Gambling, James Gilbert, Ray Hackney, Kathryn Hamil, Paula Murphy, Diane Shugars, Kirby Zeman

Members absent: Lorraine Alexander, Kevin Dudley, Mike Fisher, Richard Hanes, Jim Morken, Lola Reid,

Minutes for the meeting held on September 21, 1999 were approved.

REVIEW OF INCIDENTS/INJURIES IN THE LABORATORY ENVIRONMENT

During September - November there were 7 laboratory injuries, which are listed below:

- Hurt wrist while moving pigs from one pen to another.
- Mouse bit employee's hand during an experiment.
- Tip of forefinger was cut on a razor blade while grabbing the edge of tissue with gloved thumb and forefinger.
- Pierced skin when recapping needle.
- Splash on neck during pipetting.
- Bitten by mouse while injecting.
- Rat bite during treatment.

Seventeen laboratory incidents were also reviewed. There were 6 odor complaints, 5 mercury spills, 3 chemical spills, and 3 other incidents.

REDUCING THE USE OF MERCURY

A safety data sheet on reducing mercury use was reviewed by the committee. The data sheet will be included in information provided at the Lab Safety Orientation classes. This information will also be provided to labs that have mercury spills and labs that purchase equipment containing mercury. University scientific storeroom is investigating stocking alternatives to mercury-containing equipment.

LABORATORY CLIP INSPECTIONS SUMMARY

A summary of the laboratory CLIP inspections for June to November 1999 was reviewed. The most common violation was not providing and documenting the annual training on the lab safety plan. The results are summarized below:

Rating	Definition	Percent of Labs Inspected
Outstanding	2 or more consecutive inspections with no violations	27%
Excellent	1 inspection with no violations or only 1 <i>de-minimus</i>	33%
Good	1 non-serious violations and/or < 5 <i>de-minimus</i>	27%
Poor	2 or more Non-serious or ≥ 5 <i>de-minimus</i> ; repeat violation	8%
Unacceptable	1 or more serious violations (corrected immediately)	3%

REVIEW OF SELF-INSPECTION CHECKLIST

There were 267 of 480 self-inspections returned to date. The most common items noted were not wearing eye protection and not receiving required training on the OSHA Laboratory Standard.

REVISED BIOLOGICAL SAFETY MANUAL

For information, the contents of the revised Biological Safety Manual were reviewed. The revised manual has new chapters on laboratory security, animal handling, and biological toxins. It will be published in January 2000.

GOALS FOR 1999-2000

A goal of identifying changes in policies and procedures to make Health and Safety services more customer friendly was added. Members were encouraged to talk to their colleagues and bring their input to the next meeting.