

MINUTES
LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE
 Wednesday, January 20, 2016 (3100 Michael Hooker Research Center)

Members Present: Lorraine Alexander, Catherine Brennan, Kimberlie Burns, Nita Eskew, Anthony Hackney, Karen Hogan, Michael Long, Kathryn Reissner, Courtney Roberts

Members Absent: Pat Boone, Bruna Brylawski, Mary Beth Koza, Rihe Liu

Meeting commenced at 3:05 pm.

Good Neighbor Requirements

Committee members had previously sent in comments and edits to the “Good Neighbor Requirements for Shared Open Lab Spaces”. Discussion was held on each section of document - *Waste Disposal, Labeling, Emergency Response and Safe Work Practices*. The document was finalized and will be posted to the EHS website and distributed to labs who work in open lab buildings.

Near Miss Reporting

Brennan gave an overview of near miss incidents (an incident in which no property was damaged and no personal injury was sustained, but where, given a slight shift in time or position, damage or injury easily could have occurred) and the importance of capturing. There is a new State of North Carolina “[Hazard Hero](#)” program which UNC is participating in that encourages employees to play a role in stopping actions that cause injuries and removing unsafe conditions. The committee discussed whether this reporting format could be used for reporting laboratory near misses. It was agreed that with some modifications to the “[Hazard Hero](#)” form this should be used and there should be an option to remain anonymous.

Injuries and Incidents

The Committee reviewed the log of injuries and incidents from November through December, 2015.

INJURY TYPE	INJURY
ABSORPTION, INGESTION OR INHALATION	Employee was cleaning out fume hood and removed a 4L beaker with some pipettes from the hood. As employee transferred the pipettes to a box for disposal a large quantity of powder in the beaker became airborne.
ABSORPTION, INGESTION OR INHALATION	An employee was working with unfixed samples of animal cells infected with a biological agent and the tube cracked while centrifuging so possible aerosol exposure.
BLOOD EXPOSURE - NEEDLESTICK	Employee was shaving mice to prepare for tumor injection and sustained a needle stick.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE	Employee was exiting the lab wing on the ground floor (on their way to the lab in Rosenau Hall to conduct some lab work). Employee pushed open the door and a piece of the door's magnetic closure/lock released from the top of the doorway and fell onto employee's head
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE	Employee was scraping tape off bottle with straight edge razor when hand slipped and cut left middle finger.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE	An employee was changing out water bottles and sustained a cut.
MISC: OTHER THAN PHYSICAL CAUSE OF INJURY	Employee placed hand sanitizer on their hands and instantly started to see whelps and redness on arms.
STRAIN: REPETITIVE MOTION (carpal tunnel syndrome)	Employee experienced numbness in lateral aspect of arm, pain on lateral aspect of wrist, and numbness of lateral aspect of each hand as a result of repetitive motion.
STRUCK OR INJURED BY: STRUCK OR INJURED (kicked, stabbed, hit)	Employee was performing surgery on mouse when the blade slipped and stabbed right leg.

For incidents, there were 3 gas leaks, 1 miscellaneous, 7 odor complaints, 2 chemical spills, 1 mercury spill and 2 water spills.

2016 Committee Goals

The committee reviewed accomplishments for 2015 and also discussed and formalized new goals for 2016.

The following are the goals for 2016:

- Initiate Safety Supervisors training, quarterly meetings, FAQ, and/or incentives.
- Examine historical injury data to target injury reduction and disseminate information using various modes of communication (updating trainings, safety fairs, posters, newsletters, etc.)
- Launch near-miss online reporting form.

Other Committee Business

Brennan mentioned that the [EHS webpage](#) has recently undergone a re-design. Committee members are encouraged to check it out and let Brennan know if they have any questions.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.