

MINUTES
LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE
 Wednesday, March 16, 2016 (3005 Michael Hooker Research Center)

Members Present: Lorraine Alexander, Catherine Brennan, Kimberlie Burns, Nita Eskew, Mary Beth Koza, Rihe Liu, Todd O'Buckley, Courtney Roberts

Members Absent: Pat Boone, Anthony Hackney, Kathryn Reissner

Guest: Jonathan Moore (EHS)

Meeting commenced at 3:00 pm.

2016 Collaborative Laboratory Inspection Program Review

Moore summarized the results from 2016 for the EHS lab safety inspection program. As seen in past years, radiation labs have decreased which leads to an overall reduction in the number of labs EHS visits. The focus on lab chemical waste has resulted in lower citations overall but now the number of citations related to infectious waste has doubled. The unsafe condition citation decreased significantly due to the fact that in 2015 GHS compliance was incorporated into the citation. The citation cited the most in 2016 was related to performing monthly checks of eyewashes and EHS will try to communicate and educate lab researchers on this duty.

Lab Safety Manual Updates

Brennan summarized the minor changes that were made to two chapters in the [Lab Safety Manual](#). Chapter 9 – Controlled Substances was updated in regards to the disposal section after receiving input from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Chapter 12 – Laboratory Waste Management was updated to include PI responsibilities, satellite accumulation area language, the 4Ls are now the 5Ls (Limits), updated medical waste definition and changed “material” to “waste” throughout the document. Changes were approved and have been posted to the EHS website.

Injuries and Incidents

The Committee reviewed the log of injuries and incidents from January through February, 2016.

INJURY TYPE	INJURY
ANIMAL BITE	Employee was weighing a mouse inside a biological safety cabinet and the mouse bit through glove.
ANIMAL BITE	Employee sustained a mouse bite while handling animal.
ANIMAL BITE	Employee was exercising and socializing dogs in pen and was bit after extending their arm.
BLOOD EXPOSURE – NEEDLESTICK	Employee was injecting mouse with human tumor cells and their hand slipped and needle stuck employee's hand.
BLOOD EXPOSURE – NEEDLESTICK	Employee was preparing to inject a mouse with carboplatin when they accidentally stuck self in hand.
BLOOD EXPOSURE – NEEDLESTICK	Employee was stuck in thumb by needle that contained 4% paraformaldehyde while working with mice.
BLOOD EXPOSURE – SCALPEL, OTHER EQUIPMENT	Employee was dissecting a human lung when scalpel broke and the sharp end hit top of employee's hand.
BLOOD EXPOSURE – SCALPEL, OTHER EQUIPMENT	Employee was cutting out membrane from human cell line when razor blade slipped and cut employee's finger.
BURN OR SCALD, HEAT OR COLD: Chemicals	Employee was cleaning up hydrofluoric acid spill in hood and exhibited symptoms of exposure 24 hours later.
BURN OR SCALD, HEAT OR COLD: Boiling Water	Employee was removing bin containing 4 bottles of LB agar from autoclave. The bin had a layer of water at the bottom per liquid autoclave protocol. The employee caught the edge of the bin on autoclave as they were removing, causing the water to splash onto employee.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE	Employee was looking for a pipette in a drawer and inadvertently stuck themselves with something sharp.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE	Employee was shaving paraffin wax off tissue section with surgical blade and received a cut.

CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE	Employee cut left thumb with blade while opening a box.
FALL, SLIP, OR TRIP	Employee slipped on ice present on sidewalk while entering laboratory building.
MISCELLANEOUS	Employee had eye irritation after working in office space with high temperature.
MISCELLANEOUS	Employee developed dermatitis on hands as a result of working in laboratory.

For incidents, there was 1 explosion hazard, 1 fire, 1 gas leak (natural), 5 odor complaints, 3 chemical spills, and 2 mercury spills.

Other Committee Business

A sub-committee (Brennan, Burns, O'Buckley, Roberts) was formed to generate a path forward in regards to the 2016 committee goal, "Initiate Safety Supervisors training, quarterly meetings, FAQs, and/or incentives." The committee discussed whether general lab safety training should be more frequent (currently one-time training). The issue will be put on the agenda of the next meeting for further discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.