

MINUTES
LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, September 16, 2015 (2005 Michael Hooker Research Center)

Members Present: Lorraine Alexander, Catherine Brennan, Bruna Brylawski, Kimberlie Burns, Anthony Hackney, Michael Long, Courtney Roberts

Members Absent: Pat Boone, Nita Eskew, Karen Hogan, Mary Beth Koza, Rihe Liu, Kathryn Reissner

Visitor: Dan Eisenman (EHS)

Meeting commenced at 3:00 pm.

Avert Newsletter

Eisenman introduced himself to the committee as the new Biosafety Officer for UNC. He discussed the recent EHS Avert newsletter which focused on biological safety. The newsletter highlighted September as Biosafety Stewardship Month as well as outlined requirements for NIH training and incident reporting. [NIH training](#) is now required every 5 years for both Principal Investigators and Safety Supervisors. The newsletter was sent by hardcopy to 575 laboratory Principal Investigators on campus.

Minors in Labs Policy

Brennan presented the statistics from the past six years and the average amount of forms turned in each year is thirty. The committee asked how we advertise or remind people about the policy to ensure compliance. Brennan sends out a reminder in April to all laboratory Principal Investigators prior to summer season when minors working in labs on internships is common. The committee performed the annual review of the policy and only one minor change was made to a webpage link. The committee voted and approved the update to the policy.

Dangerous Gas Policy

The committee performed the annual review of the policy and only one minor change was made within the EHS Responsibilities section. The committee voted and approved the update to the policy.

Injuries and Incidents, May-August 2015

The Committee reviewed the log of injuries and incidents from May through August, 2015.

INJURY TYPE	INJURY
ABSORPTION, INGESTION OR INHALATION	Employee was manipulating Sodium Azide outside of fume hood per laboratory standard operating procedure. Realized toxicity and that it should be used inside of hood. Reported to UEOHC as a precaution.
ANIMAL BITE	Employee was handling a laboratory rat that bit his left hand.
ANIMAL BITE	Employee was bitten by a rat during laboratory experiment.
BLOOD EXPOSURE - NEEDLESTICK	Employee was being trained on mouse handling with uninfected mice. Employee was wearing gloves, and nicked thumb with needle.
BLOOD EXPOSURE - SCALPEL, OTHER EQUIPMENT, ETC.	Employee's finger was cut by a glass pipette while processing a human blood sample from a patient.
BLOOD EXPOSURE - SCALPEL, OTHER EQUIPMENT, ETC.	Employee was dissecting human lung tissue when scalpel slipped and punctured the employee's finger.
BURN OR SCALD, HEAT OR COLD	Employee's arm touched hot autoclave door.
CAUGHT IN, UNDER, OR BETWEEN: MACHINE OR MACHINERY	Employee was working with a centrifuge with cover off and accidentally turned machine on. Employee's finger got caught in the machine during process.

CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE: HAND TOOL, UTENSIL (not powered, e.g., screw driver fell on toe)	Employee was pulling zip tie tight with pliers, they slipped and cut employee's forehead.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE: HAND TOOL, UTENSIL (not powered, e.g., screw driver fell on toe)	Employee was anesthetizing a rodent and pricked palm with needle.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE: HAND TOOL, UTENSIL (not powered, e.g., screw driver fell on toe)	Employee cut finger on razor blade when scraping surface during procedure.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE: HAND TOOL, UTENSIL (not powered, e.g., screw driver fell on toe)	Employee was utilizing a needle on a dog when it jerked its leg back and needle came out, became airborne and stuck employee's thumb.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE: OBJECT BEING LIFTED OR HANDLED	Employee was pulling a steel rack from freezer to put samples in storage. Employee pulled hand out and cut finger on right hand.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE: POWERED HAND TOOL, APPLIANCE (e.g., drill slipped and hit finger)	Employee was removing a cell culture flask off an orbital platform inside a temperature controlled cabinet. Employee's finger got caught between the platform and the wall of the incubator.
FALL, SLIP OR TRIP: FALL ON SAME LEVEL (tripped and stumbled)	Employee tripped, fell and cut left hand open with a reaction flask they were holding.
FALL, SLIP OR TRIP: FALL FROM DIFFERENT LEVEL (e.g., from second story bldg. off wall)	Employee descended steps at the back of the MBRB building, and slipped over a metal grate. Employees right foot slipped forward and the left knee hit the grate. Employee's left knee was cut and required immediate medical attention.
FALL, SLIP OR TRIP: FALL ON SAME LEVEL (tripped and stumbled)	Employee tripped on the sidewalk to the left of Mary Ellen Jones building due to missing brick.
FALL, SLIP OR TRIP: FALL, SLIP OR TRIP	Employee was walking down corridor whose floor was covered with paper mat that was taped down. The front side of the paper was not taped down properly and employee's foot caught under the paper causing a fall.
MISC: OTHER THAN PHYSICAL CAUSE OF INJURY	Employee had been working with cell growth media and chemicals throughout the day and a rash developed on the left side of employee's neck.
STRAIN: LIFTING (including lifting patient)	Employee was loading racks on container truck and experienced a strain.
STRAIN: USING TOOL OR MACHINE	Employee experienced strain due to computer work.
STRIKING AGAINST OR STEPPING ON: STRIKING AGAINST OR STEPPING ON	Employee was setting up a PCR gel and came in contact with a broken glass dish.

For incidents, there was 1 fire, 2 fire alarms, 1 fume hood, 5 gas leaks, 2 miscellaneous, 16 odor complaints, 2 requests for investigation, 7 chemical spills and 1 water spill.

Other Committee Business

Brennan discussed the recently update Animals on Campus Policy that was reviewed and approved at the last USSC. The policy has implications for lab safety and at the next meeting the committee will review draft language for inclusion in the lab safety manual. Brennan asked for volunteers for a sub-group to look into safety issues with open lab design. The committee ended the meeting by reviewing the 2015 committee goals.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.