

MINUTES

LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 18, 2015 (7004 Marsico Hall)

Members Present: Lorraine Alexander, Pat Boone, Catherine Brennan, Kimberlie Burns, Nita Eskew, Karen Hogan, Mary Beth Koza, Michael Long, Courtney Roberts

Members Absent: Bruna Brylawski, Anthony Hackney, Rihe Liu, Kathryn Reissner

Meeting commenced at 3:00 pm.

General EHS Updates

Koza gave an update on the Safety Culture Task Force toolbox which the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) is leading. UNC Greensboro was part of task force that designed and implemented the new toolbox so UNC system schools will be probably be asked to test the application. Koza also mentioned the master planning process which is currently underway at the University. One of the core principles of the master plan will be open collaborative environments. If we have recommendations for open lab design we will need to make sure they are included in the lab design guidelines.

Tour of Open Labs

The committee toured the 7th floor of Marsico Hall which is a new building on campus that has an open lab design. After the tour, committee members discussed observations and differences between conventional individual lab rooms and the open lab design. The "Good Neighbor Requirements for Shared Open Lab Spaces" document was passed out for review and the committee was asked to send in two new ideas to include on an updated document. The ideas will be incorporated into the Good Neighbor Policy to be passed out to lab researchers who work in open labs.

Injuries and Incidents, September-October 2015

The Committee reviewed the log of injuries and incidents from September through October, 2015.

INJURY TYPE	INJURY
ABSORPTION, INGESTION OR INHALATION	Employee was escorting hood certification personnel to open & vent paraformaldehyde vapors following hood decontamination. HVAC system in room was disabled which could have led to exposure.
ANIMAL BITE	Employee was working with mice and one of the mice bit employee's hand during restraining process.
ANIMAL BITE	Employee was setting down mouse cage in high containment lab. Employee felt a grab on glove and noticed a small hole through both gloves. Skin was unbroken and no residue was noted on hands.
ANIMAL BITE	Employee was showing student how to restrain a mouse when it bit employee's left middle finger.
ANIMAL BITE	Employee was receiving training on how to give mice subcutaneous injection. Employee went through mouses's skin with needle and into finger.
ANIMAL BITE	Employee was demonstrating how to socialize a rat before restraint. The employee picked it up by tail base, placed it on arm and it turned and bit employee's right index finger.
BLOOD EXPOSURE - NEEDLESTICK	Employee obtained a needle stick while working in lab.

CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE	Employee cut thumb when replacing tissue-sectioning blade.
STRAIN	Employee was sitting in desk chair, pushed filing cabinet drawer closed with left arm and obtained strain.
STRIKING AGAINST OR STEPPING ON	Employee was moving a centrifuge and crushed finger between wall and centrifuge.
STRIKING AGAINST OR STEPPING ON	Employee was moving a bench/table to its side, the bench top slid off and landed on employee's left toe.
STRIKING AGAINST OR STEPPING ON	Employee was walking in work area and ran into storage box.
STRUCK OR INJURED BY	Employee was using Bridgeport style milling machine fabricating parts for undergraduate student course. An aluminum metal chip was ejected from the cutting area and impacted employee beneath eye wear in the right eye

For incidents, there was 1 fume hood, 2 gas leaks, 2 miscellaneous, 9 odor complaints, 2 requests for investigation, 3 chemical spills and 1 water spill.

Other Committee Business

Brennan mentioned that The committee is still looking to recruit an additional member and asked members to submit names. One focus for 2016 will be inspection of clinical labs and this was mentioned to be presented at an upcoming meeting. Brennan will also send out the 2016 committee schedule at the first of the year so everyone can add it to their calendars.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.