

MINUTES

LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, July 20, 2016 (3005 Michael Hooker Research Center)

Members Present: Catherine Brennan, Pat Boone, Kimberlie Burns, Mary Beth Koza, Stephanie Murray, Todd O'Buckley, Jim Potts

Members Absent: Lorraine Alexander, Nita Eskew, Anthony Hackney, Rihe Liu, Kathryn Reissner

Meeting commenced at 3:00 pm.

APLU Webinar

Potts gave an overview of a recent APLU webinar on Safety Culture. One of the main themes from the webinar was the importance of University leadership promoting and enforcing safety. In addition, the role of EHS should be less regulatory/enforcement and act more in a collaborator fashion with researchers to help support lab safety. There were also several highlights for what Principal Investigators can do to support safety culture. The committee was given a copy of the APLU summary and reviewed during the meeting to see what items UNC-CH could implement. As a result of discussion, EHS will schedule lab safety inspections instead of coming unannounced and inspectors will do a thorough review of the lab safety plan before they perform an inspection to ensure that they are asking laboratory specific questions and not just focusing on general lab safety.

University of Hawaii Final Report

Brennan summarized the final report from the UCLA Center for Laboratory Safety on the Hawaii accident. There are 2 reports – Technical Analysis of Accident and Recommendations for Improvement in University of Hawaii Lab Safety Programs. From the technical analysis the likely physical cause for the explosion was an electrostatic charge. Recommendations included:

- Focus on hazard recognition and risk assessment
- Gas cylinder safety
- Near miss reporting

UNC-CH EHS believes some of the changes mentioned above in regards to lab inspections can help with focusing on hazard assessments and risk assessments. EHS currently has a compressed gas cylinder training online and requires labs to take this training if issues with gas cylinders are found. EHS is also looking at expanding the Hazard Hero program to better capture near misses.

Injuries and Incidents

The Committee reviewed the log of injuries and incidents from May and June, 2016.

INJURY TYPE	INJURY
ABSORPTION, INGESTION or INHALATION	Employee was washing out media waste and rubber hose on sink broke and waste splashed onto employees face and chest.
ANIMAL BITE	Employee sustained a rat bite during IP injection administration.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE	Employee was washing knife after cutting tissue and cut right thumb.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE	Employee was taping up box and cut hand on tape dispenser.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE	Employee was injecting mice and punctured finger with syringe needle.
FALL, SLIP or TRIP	Employee fell down in front of stair when leaving work.
FALL, SLIP or TRIP	Employee was carrying items to another building and fell down stairs.
STRAIN	Employee developed pain in right shoulder and right hand at work.
STRAIN	Employee developed neck pain after conducting a biological experiment at lab bench.
STRAIN	Employee sustained a possible ergonomic injury to elbow and left shoulder after lifting boxes for laboratory move.
STRAIN	Employee developed left hand pain at work.

For incidents, there were 2 fire alarms, 2 fume hoods, 2 miscellaneous, 5 odor complaints, 2 chemical spills, and 1 water spill.

Other Committee Business

Koza discussed the new [Zika website](#) and Zika awareness event that was held last month.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.