

MINUTES

LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, July 19, 2017 (3005 Michael Hooker Research Center)

Members Present: Pat Boone, Catherine Brennan, Kimberlie Burns, Nita Eskew, Stephanie Murray, Todd O'Buckley, Jim Potts

Visitors Present: Scott Warren

Members Absent: Lorraine Alexander, Anthony Hackney, Mary Beth Koza, Rihe Liu, Kathryn Reissner

Meeting commenced at 3:05 pm.

Chemistry Department Incident

Brennan and Warren summarized a potassium fire incident in the Chemistry Department that occurred in February which led to a burn injury to the hand of a graduate student. A detailed incident report was filed and several recommendations and corrective actions were made: The Principal Investigator and lab have implemented all recommendations and shared lessons learned to the committee as a result of incident. The PI has also implemented monthly safety discussions at group meetings to fully integrate and stress the importance of safety in research. The committee furthered the discussion by suggesting that the Chemistry Department safety course for graduate students include a safety project such as writing a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) or risk assessment of an actual procedure the graduate student would perform. Another suggestion was to post past accidents/incidents within a department on an intranet so that others can learn from root causes and review corrective actions.

Detailed Incident Investigations

Brennan informed the committee that EHS has started detailed incident investigations for all lab injuries and near misses. The goal of these investigations is to examine root causes, make recommendations and assign corrective actions. EHS is hoping this will lead to better documentation of root cause and ensure remediation of any deficiencies that led to injury or incident. The reports will be sent to the corresponding PI or Supervisor of area, department chair and any other stakeholders. EHS believes this will help emphasize the importance of safety with lab researchers and shows the University takes Safety seriously.

Injuries and Incidents

The Committee reviewed the log of injuries and incidents from May through June, 2017.

INJURY TYPE	INJURY
ABSORPTION, INGESTION or INHALATION	Employee splashed 3% formaldehyde into eye as a result of a tube not being closed properly.
ABSORPTION, INGESTION or INHALATION	Employee working in high containment area noticed break in PPE after exiting lab.
ANIMAL BITE	Employee was bit by a mouse while giving it an injection.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE	Employee was cleaning a blade of a cryostat when the blade nicked right pointer finger.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE	Employee was putting away biohazard trash in autoclave room and shelf propped against wall fell and hit cart which employee grabbed. Employee received cut to wrist/hand.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE	Employee was scoring and breaking microscope slides for mass spec analysis and a piece of glass punctured through two layers of gloves and of employee's hand.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE	Employee was moving a vacuum pump located under a cabinet and hand was cut by protruding piece of metal.
FALL, SLIP or TRIP	Employee slipped in front of ice machine where a puddle was left by ice spill from previous user.
STRAIN	Employee was opening autoclave door and felt pain in their back.
STRIKING AGAINST or STEPPING ON	Employee was exiting supply closet and ran into door stop which cut lower leg.
STRUCK or INJURED BY	Employee was struck by a panel from a dishwasher after it was not reattached properly.

For incidents, there were 2 fire alarms, 11 odor complaints, 1 request for investigation, and 3 chemical spills.

Other Committee Business

No other committee business discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.