

## LABORATORY SAFETY COMMITTEE

October 22, 2012

**TO:** All Laboratory Personnel

**FROM:** Max Overman, Laboratory Safety Committee

**SUBJECT:** October 15, 2012 Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

**Participants:** Anne Chandler, Edith Henderson, Joe Jurgevich, Heather Morgan, Max Overman, James Staley

### Laboratory CHP Revision 2012:

The 2012 revision of Laboratory Chemical Hygiene Plan has been finalized. Steve Kaasa had a few minor comments, which were incorporated into the final revision. The 2012 CHP has been posted on the lab's website; in addition, hard-copies will be distributed to each lab unit.

### Division Safety Consultant position:

With Steve Kaasa's promotion to NCDENR Safety Director, the DWQ Safety Consultant position is currently vacant. In the meantime, if you have any safety issues that need to include someone at the division level (e.g., injury forms, workers compensation issues), please contact either Kate Foley (telephone: 919-807-6327) or Frank Dalton (telephone: 919-807-6324). For any forms that need to be delivered to them by inter-office mail, their MSC number is 1617 (Archdale Building). We will also be sending the safety meeting minutes, safety audits, etc. to Kate and/or Frank.

### Visitors to laboratory:

As a follow-up to discussion at the September meeting, two actions were taken: (1) new safety glasses were placed at the front office entrance, in a Plexiglas storage box; (2) a sign with information for visitors to the lab has been posted at the front office entrance as well as the receiving room entrance.

### Fume hoods:

We're planning to have the Hamilton fume hoods in the semi-volatiles/pesticides extraction area (and possibly in Wet Chemistry) re-certified by ECT. The hoods would be certified for use with the hood sash approximately 2/3 open, and for use of the sliding glass doors (sash closed). This should provide sash positions that are easier for chemists to use while maintaining full fume containment. Hopefully, this can be completed by the end of the year.

A new velometer will be purchased for use in the lab. This velometer will have a digital readout and hand-held wand for taking air velocity measurements for the fume hoods.

### Acid fumes (metals lab):

There was discussion of acid fumes that were experienced in the metals unit recently during digestion of soil samples in a large waterbath. The waterbath sits under a large canopy hood, but the canopy hood

doesn't always fully contain acid fumes generated during the digestion process. There will be further investigation into how to improve fume containment for this set-up.

New gloves for washing glassware:

Anne said that new gloves have been ordered for use in washing glassware in the extractions area. These gloves are thicker (more puncture-resistant), have a longer cuff (to protect the wrist and forearm), and have fingertips that provide better traction when handling wet glassware.

A reminder to safety committee members: checks of the safety devices for each lab unit should be conducted and documented on a monthly basis. This includes eyewashes and drench hoses, safety showers, fire extinguishers, and smoke detectors. For fume hoods, please check each hood every three months with the velometer (located in John's office).

The next safety committee meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. Minutes were prepared by Max Overman and Anne Chandler on October 19, 2012. MO