

## LABORATORY SAFETY COMMITTEE

May 19, 2009

**TO:** All Laboratory Personnel

**FROM:** John Park, Laboratory Safety Committee

**SUBJECT:** May 18, 2009 Safety Committee Meeting

**Participants:** John Park, Ray Kelling, Max Overman,  
Angela Dexter, Joe Jurgevich, Joan Styles, Heather Parker

Max reviewed an accident that occurred in April during a demonstration of how to transport a gas cylinder on a two-wheel gas cylinder cart. The accident resulted in a hand injury and time away from work. All of the required forms were completed and submitted to Steve Kaasa. The cart was the only one in the lab that does not have the extra support wheels that help hold the weight of the gas cylinder while rolling the cart. This cart has been permanently removed from the building. Stored in the stairwell area, there are two single-cylinder carts and one two-cylinder cart available with the extra support wheels.

As a reminder, if you are involved in an accident, you are to report it to your supervisor immediately as there is a time limit for reporting to Workman's Comp. For more information regarding what is involved in documenting an accident and the responsibilities of the employee and supervisor, see the following webpage: <http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/admin/sso/InjuryReporting.htm>

As a side-note to the accident, Max mentioned that the large cylinder cart that can hold two gas cylinders should be checked. The chain for the cart is not welded to the cart, as is the case with the two single-cylinder carts. For that reason please use extra caution when using the two-cylinder cart, whether handling one or two gas cylinders.

Joan asked about trees and shrubs around the building and lawn maintenance in general. The shrubs have grown tall and wide, and block the view as people exit the building. Tree branches are blocking clear views of the road and parking

spaces. It was agreed that we may need to take care of pruning the shrubbery ourselves. (On May 19<sup>th</sup> volunteers cut back trees and shrubbery thus providing a clear view of the driveways, parking lot and road). Regarding lawn maintenance, Division of Purchase and Services is moving slowly in finalizing the contract with the lawn care company.

With the grass and weeds growing higher than normal, snakes are more prevalent around the building. Although we will try to have the grass mowed as soon as possible, please keep an eye out for snakes as there have been two spotted near the building in the last three weeks (Black Rat snake and Cottonmouth Moccasin).

Ray and John plan to conduct the quarterly safety audit for the laboratory on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>.

The issue of people being at work when they are sick was raised. Although there are no set rules regarding sickness, if you are sick with a contagious illness, please be considerate of your coworkers and stay home to prevent spreading the illness. The following websites were suggested as sources of information:

[www.cdc.gov/niosh/](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/) and [www.who.int/en/](http://www.who.int/en/).

John mentioned that he is still working on a list of particularly hazardous substances. He asked that semi-volatiles, pesticides, and metals provide him with the following information regarding standards: name of stock substance, supplier, and a website, if available). John hopes to use this info to obtain electronic copies of certificates of analysis, which he can then forward to Steve Kaasa. This list will also eventually go in the CHP.

At the next meeting, John plans to assign sections of the Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP) to each safety committee member to begin the 2009 revisions of the CHP.

John mentioned that there are extra helium tanks in the gas cylinder pen, so be careful if you have to unchain the helium tanks.

The next safety committee meeting is scheduled for June 1, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. Minutes were prepared by Max Overman on May 19, 2009.

MO/JMC

