

LABORATORY SAFETY COMMITTEE

August 5, 2008

TO: All Laboratory Personnel

FROM: John Park, Chairman, Laboratory Safety Committee

SUBJECT: August 4, 2008 Safety Committee Meeting

Participants: John Park, Ray Kelling, Peggy Campbell, Angela Dexter, Max Overman, Bill Skinner, Heather Parker, Kendra Moore

John reported that the mercury waste from COD analysis has been moved to the solvent storage room. The mercury waste, as well as solvent waste, is scheduled to be picked up this week. Ray noted that mercury is more hazardous as a vapor, whereas the mercury waste is dissolved in liquid and tightly sealed in containers.

Ray also mentioned that fluorescent bulbs contain mercury, which is why these bulbs cannot be discarded into the regular garbage. This is also true of the new compact fluorescent bulbs that can fit into lamps and standard light fixtures. These bulbs are intended for longer life, but if encased in a globe, the bulbs will burn out faster (due to heat).

John reported that the Laboratory's CHP revision for 2008 has been finalized and it will now be sent to Steve Kaasa.

A reminder to everyone working in the lab areas: a lab coat, safety glasses, and gloves should always be worn while doing bench work. This is especially true when handling samples and reagents. These safety items are meant to provide protection, but also provide a barrier between samples/reagents and our street clothes, thus reducing the chance of transferring something from the lab environment to the home environment.

Bill asked about the new electrical outlet in the men's room. It was installed when the new emergency lights were installed, but it's located right next to the sinks. Ray will check to see if the outlet is GFCI or have a cover installed over the outlet.

The next safety committee meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2008 at 10:30 a.m. Minutes were prepared by Max Overman on August 4, 2008.

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