

LABORATORY SAFETY COMMITTEE

October 8, 2013

TO: All Laboratory Personnel

FROM: John Park, Laboratory Safety Committee

SUBJECT: October 7, 2013 Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

Participants: Chris Cangemi, Edith Henderson, Joe Jurgevich, Joe Mohn, Heather Morgan, Max Overman, John Park, Mark Starr

Quarterly Safety Inspection:

John, Chris and Max conducted a safety inspection of the laboratory and modular buildings on September 16th. No major safety issues were found, but some minor issues were included in the general comments. A copy of the inspection report is posted on the hallway bulletin board.

Changes to OSHA Hazard Communication Standard:

Chris talked about upcoming changes to OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard, which applies to the labeling of chemical containers and the format of safety data sheets (SDS). These changes are bringing the United States into alignment with the Globally Harmonized System for Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (or GHS). For the lab, the immediate need is for training (which is required by December 2013). Chris said that Steve has put together a training module, which should be ready later this month. Chris isn't sure if the training will be on-site or on-line.

Chemical Hygiene Plan:

The 2013 revision of the Laboratory CHP has been completed and approved by Chris. John provided hard-copies of the CHP to each unit; these copies should be maintained in an accessible location. The CHP has also been posted on the laboratory web site.

Several forms have been updated and were included in the appendix of the 2013 CHP. These include safety training forms, emergency notification form, fume hood evaluation worksheet, and emergency evacuation map.

CO₂ Fire Extinguishers:

To provide a better option for extinguishing a small fire on an analytical instrument, three CO₂ fire extinguishers are going to be purchased and installed in the lab. There will be one at each end of the hallway, and one near the computer network. These extinguishers can be used for class B and C fires, and allow a fire to be extinguished without powder (reducing clean-up and potential damage to analytical systems).

CPR/First Aid Training:

Chris talked a little bit more about CPR and First Aid training. He is looking into options; he will first have to be certified to conduct CPR/First Aid training if it to be done in-house.

Physicals:

There was discussion regarding physicals for laboratory employees. The last records of annual physicals that Chris has been able to find are from 2008. The first step will be to re-assess the hazards for each lab unit and determine what needs to be included in the physical exams.

Respirator Fit Testing:

Chris noted that John and Max need to have updated fit-testing for the half-face respirators that are worn during solvent waste transfers. He borrowed John's mask to find out where this can be performed.

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 tentatively scheduled for November 4, 2013 at 10:30 a.m.
- Minutes were prepared by Max Overman and John Park on October 7, 2013. MO/JP