

LABORATORY SAFETY COMMITTEE

October 14, 2009

TO: All Laboratory Personnel
FROM: John Park, Laboratory Safety Committee
SUBJECT: October 2009 Safety Committee Meeting
Participants: John Park, Ray Kelling, Max Overman, Jeanne Carter, Edith Henderson, Joe Jurgevich, Beth Swanson, Heather Parker

John gave each committee member a copy of the finalized 2009 revision of the Laboratory's Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP). Each lab unit should maintain a hard-copy of the latest revision of the CHP. The CHP is also available on the lab's web page.

Ray said that a new chain has been installed on the loading dock, near the door to the receiving room. In addition, all three of the chains for the loading dock were shortened so that when attached to the posts, the chains will be at the correct height. S-hooks were secured to the chains so they cannot be removed or lost.

Ray and Nick assembled a cabinet and installed it in the men's room. The cabinet is near the safety shower in the men's room, and will hold supplies to be used in the event the safety shower is needed. Supplies will include towels, a bathrobe, sweat pants and shirts, slippers, soap, and a floor mat.

John reviewed an accident involving a spill of a sulfide stock solution in Wet Chemistry. The glass flask containing the solution broke when a stir bar was dropped into the flask. However, the spill was cleaned up and there were no injuries. Steve Kaasa was notified of the incident.

Ray mentioned that a sign still needs to be placed on the ice machine in the receiving room. The sign will mainly be to indicate that the ice machine is not routinely sanitized and that the ice is not intended for consumption. Since there have been no issues with people using the ice, any decision on whether to actually restrict use of the ice will be left to Steve Kaasa. Heather mentioned that the ice machine was recently cleaned, including a rinse with bleach.

Ray mentioned that it was time to conduct a fire drill. Max and John will coordinate with Garland and Alvin when they next test the fire alarm. Hopefully, the drill can be conducted in October while the weather is still warm.

Ray also mentioned that it was time for another solvent waste disposal, so he and John took care of that Monday morning.

A couple of items were raised regarding the new state law for recycling that went into effect on October 1st. The law outlaws plastic bottles being disposed into landfills. Max

said that the law seems to be aimed at large operations like sports arenas. However at the lab, we should try and recycle all plastic bottles. The recycling bin in the break room is intended for plastic water and soda bottles (plastic numbers 1 and 2). Please rinse soda bottles prior to disposal! Note that yogurt cups and plastic trays are made of another type of plastic and should not be put in the recycling bin. Any plastic bottles for reagents or buffer solutions can be rinsed and disposed of in the trash receptacle near the gas cylinder pin. We may also look into getting recycling containers for some of the lab units.

It was brought up that the trash dumpster that used to be located near our building was damaged and will not be replaced. There is now only one trash dumpster (plus a dumpster for cardboard) for all three buildings. These dumpsters are located behind the ESS building. This presents lab personnel with a long walk to dispose of broken glassware and vials; and it was agreed that having the trash dumpster more centrally located would help. Max and John will discuss this with Joy and Kent.

A reminder that on a regular basis, the cup sinks and floor drains located throughout the lab need to have water added to prevent fumes from entering the building.

The next Safety committee meeting is scheduled for November 2, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. Minutes were prepared by Max Overman and Jeanne Carter on October 14, 2009.

/mo/jc