

LABORATORY SAFETY COMMITTEE

March 10, 2011

TO: All Laboratory Personnel

FROM: John Park, Laboratory Safety Committee

SUBJECT: March 7, 2011 Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

Participants: Anne Chandler, Edith Henderson, Magdi Ibrahim, Joe Jurgevich, Max Overman, John Park, James Staley

The quarterly safety audit of the laboratory and certification buildings that was originally scheduled for February was rescheduled for Monday, March 14. Anne, John, and Max will conduct the audit.

John reported that the fire extinguisher in room G035 (Jim's office) has been moved from behind the door to a new location adjacent to the doorway. The extinguisher was moved to provide easier access.

There was discussion regarding how the lab should respond in the event of a tornado warning. James, John, and Max have weather radios that have alarms and provide information when a tornado warning is issued by the National Weather Service. If a tornado warning is issued for Wake County, everyone in the lab would be notified (either by intercom or in person). Everyone would be asked to move into the central hallway, away from windows. James recommended that the door at each end of the hallway be propped slightly open to equalize pressure.

John and Anne mentioned that Dana had asked about how people in the modular building should respond to a tornado warning. Anne is going to purchase a weather radio for the modular building so that they do not have to rely on the lab for notification of a tornado warning. Everyone in the modular building should move to the laboratory building (if safe to do so) if a tornado warning is issued for Wake County. If unable to move to the lab, move to the central conference room of the modular building. Note: A weather radio was installed in the modular building on 3/10/2011.

Max reported that bottles of old organic solvents in the acid storage room were removed for disposal by Veolia ES on March 2.

Max said that the EPCRA Tier 2 report for 2011 has been completed. The information for the laboratory was forwarded to Steve Kaasa, who entered the information electronically. Argon and methylene chloride were the only chemicals that exceeded reporting thresholds.

Edith said that a microscope located in the Pesticides lab has a faulty electrical cord. James volunteered to check it, and a request has been submitted to Facilities Management for the cord to be replaced.

Edith said that it had been reported to her that the fume box in the Semi-volatiles lab does not seem to be working correctly. This fume box is connected to the air handling system and has a lower face velocity than the fume hoods. Max has measured the velocity at the front of the box as 50 feet-per-minute (fpm) and at the rear of the box (near the exhaust pipe) as 90 to 100 fpm. The box will be checked to see if any improvements can be made to it to improve air flow. In addition, notification

needs to be provided to lab personnel when the air handling system is going to be shut off so that the fume box is not being used during that time.

One of the door handles in the Wet Chemistry lab has developed a green color/residue. Magdi said that he will try to clean it off, but the handle may need to be replaced.

There was discussion regarding cell phone use while working in areas where solvents are being used. It was agreed that if someone needs to use their cell phone, it should not be used in extraction/digestion areas or in the presence of solvents (or other chemicals). We may need for an email to be sent to everyone in the lab as a reminder, and this policy should be included in the next revision of the lab's CHP.

Anne said that the radiation wipe test results for the ECD's stored in Pesticides were acceptable. The Nickel-63 in the ECD's has a low level of radiation and is required to be wipe-tested periodically. Anne is going to continue to try and find a way to have the old ECD's removed from the lab.

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, safety showers, fire extinguishers, and smoke detectors. For safety hoods, please check with the velometer (located in John's office) every three months.

The next safety committee meeting is scheduled for April 4, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. Minutes were prepared by Max Overman and John Park on March 8, 2011. MO/JP