

LABORATORY SAFETY COMMITTEE

April 22, 2010

TO: All Laboratory Personnel

FROM: John Park, Laboratory Safety Committee

SUBJECT: April 12, 2010 Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

Participants: John Park, Max Overman, Joe Jurgevich, Edith Henderson, Beth Swanson, Heather Parker

The quarterly facility safety inspection for the laboratory was conducted on March 15 by John and Max. Two items were noted as requiring corrective action. The first item was an eyewash in the receiving room that needed to be replaced (the eyewash was replaced on 3/31/2010). The second item was a water leak from a steam pipe located in the closet of room G108 (initially documented in November 2009). The next facility safety inspection will be conducted in June 2010.

John said that the flare for one of the fume snorkels located in Microbiology (above the TOC instrument) was replaced by Garland and Alvin. The new flare is a better fit for the snorkel tubing.

John handed out a revised facility/laboratory audit form that Max put together. The revised form is similar to the existing Facility Safety Audit and Security Checklist form that is currently used for the quarterly safety audits; however, items that are not applicable to the lab have been replaced with items relating to chemical safety, chemical storage, and waste disposal. The revised form will be submitted to Steve Kaasa for his review and approval.

Max discussed possible options that should help to improve the performance of the fume hoods in the lab. In the next fiscal year, we hope to have many of the older fume hoods in the lab units professionally serviced, which would include having the hoods calibrated to achieve optimal face velocity and having the blower for each hood checked. Eventually, some of the older hoods might even be replaced. For the newer hoods, we may look into having the blowers adjusted so that the face velocity would be closer to 100 feet per minute (currently, the newer hoods have face velocities of 150 to 200 fpm).

Edith asked about the office space that is opening up as members of the Certification unit move to the new modular building. Specifically, could people that now have desks in areas where chemical extractions and analyses are performed move to offices so as to help minimize their exposure to hazardous chemicals? Max and John agreed and will talk to Kent.

The next safety committee meeting is scheduled for May 10, 2010 at 10:30 a.m. Minutes were prepared by Max Overman and John Park on April 15, 2010.

JP/mo