

## LABORATORY SAFETY COMMITTEE

May 1, 2013

**TO:** All Laboratory Personnel  
**FROM:** John Park, Laboratory Safety Committee  
**SUBJECT:** April 22, 2013 Safety Committee Meeting Minutes  
**Participants:** Anne Chandler, Edith Henderson, Magdi Ibrahim, Joe Jurgevich, Heather Morgan, Max Overman, John Park, Mark Starr

### Laboratory Safety Inspection:

John announced that a safety inspection of the laboratory will be conducted in early May, most likely on Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. Anne, John, and Max will conduct the inspection.

### State Capitol Police:

There were questions and discussion about State Capitol Police and what can be expected if they are called during the weekend or after-hours. We know that due to budget cuts that they no longer routinely patrol our area, and they can no longer send someone here to escort employees to their car (as noted on the old signs posted at each building exit). What is uncertain and needs to be better clarified is how they will respond if an employee calls the posted telephone number for State Capitol Police (919-733-3333). For which types of situations can we be confident that they will send someone out to the lab (or contact the Raleigh Police Department, if needed)?

The **State Capitol Police signs** posted at each building exit are being revised, and will be re-posted with the correct telephone number and situations when to call them. The sign will also include when to call 911.

**For anyone who comes to the lab on the weekend, or may be here after 5:00:** if you see a building issue, such as a water leak or the heat/AC is off, you can call State Capitol Police. They will then contact Facilities Management to have someone come out to the lab.

### Key Pads for Hallway Exits:

There are plans to eventually install entry key-pads at the east and west hallway entrances to the lab building. Currently, there is a key-pad at the front entrance only. There was discussion about the pros and cons of key-pads and the associated entry code. Mark described issues that were encountered at the Washington Regional Office, where a key-pad is used for access to their office/lab area. The major issue regarding a key-pad is likely be security of the entry code – for example, it could not be shared with family or friends, or included in emails, so as to insure that the code is only known by lab employees. There would also need to be a written procedure for changing the entry code, as well as communicating changes to lab employees and State Capitol Police or the fire department.

### **Building Evacuation Question:**

Edith asked a question regarding building evacuation: would the standard evacuation procedure of gathering near the parking lot provide a safe distance in a situation involving a possibility of an explosion in the building? There was discussion about the potential for an explosion in the lab. Although there is a possibility of a localized explosion that would endanger people in the specific lab unit (e.g., oxidizers, formation of peroxide crystals in ether containers), the potential for a large-scale explosion (such as recently experienced at the fertilizer plant in Texas) is minimal, since we do not have large enough quantities of chemicals that would create an explosion of that size and force. However, if there were to be a situation when the building had to be evacuated and there was a need for a greater distance from the building, we would use the secondary gathering location (south side of ESS building; parking lot or breeze-way) that is mentioned the lab CHP.

### **Fume hoods:**

There are still plans for the older Hamilton fume hoods in Wet Chemistry and Extractions will be re-certified in the coming months. The air flow testing would be conducted by ECT and is intended to certify higher hood sash positions, as well as certify use of the sash door glass panels.

**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 scheduled for May 6, 2013 at 10:30 a.m. Minutes were prepared by Max Overman and John Park on April 29, 2013. MO/JP