

LABORATORY SAFETY COMMITTEE

December 4, 2012

TO: All Laboratory Personnel

FROM: John Park, Laboratory Safety Committee

SUBJECT: December 3, 2012 Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Safety Inspection:

John announced that a safety inspection of the laboratory will be conducted in January 2013. Anne, John, and Max will conduct the inspection.

Chemical Waste Pick-up:

Veolia ES removed a large quantity of old chemicals and standards from the lab on November 7. With that disposal pickup, the majority of the oldest chemicals and standards (10+ years old) in the lab have now been removed. In the coming months, any remaining old chemicals/standards in the lab units will be moved to the acid storage room.

Incident involving ether odor:

Anne talked about an incident that occurred a few weeks ago when ether could be smelled in several parts of the laboratory, including in office areas. Ether had been used that day in the organics extraction area, but more than an hour before the ether odor was noticed. Also, the ether was used under a fume hood, and containers were always under the hood. But somehow ether vapors made it into the general air handling system. At this point, there is no explanation of how this could have happened, but it appears that it was an exhaust/air handling system issue (not lab procedures).

Fume hood in Wet Chemistry:

Magdi reported that the warning light is flashing on the control box of one of the fume hoods in Wet Chemistry. Magdi is working with Kent to try and figure out what is causing the issue. If you notice any issues with a fume hood or hood control box, please notify Anne, Kent, or Roy.

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 January 7, 2013 at 10:30 a.m. Minutes were prepared by Max Overman and John Park on December 4, 2012. MO/JP