

LABORATORY SAFETY COMMITTEE

February 11, 2011

TO: All Laboratory Personnel

FROM: John Park, Laboratory Safety Committee

SUBJECT: February 7, 2011 Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

Participants: Anne Chandler, Edith Henderson, Magdi Ibrahim, Joe Jurgevich, Heather Morgan, Max Overman, John Park, Mark Starr

The quarterly safety audit of the laboratory and certification buildings will be conducted on Monday, February 21. Anne, John, and Max will conduct the audit.

John mentioned that we still want to have the fire extinguisher in Jim's office (room G035) moved from behind the door. John will talk with Joy and Garland about moving the extinguisher to either the other side of the door to the office, or to a location closer to the flammables cabinet near the SV/pesticides walk-in cooler.

Anne received an information packet for the EPCRA Tier 2 reporting requirements for 2011. Last year, the argon tank exceeded the reporting threshold and a Tier 2 report was submitted. Max will work with Steve Kaasa to update any information for the lab.

Anne brought up an issue regarding the disposal of the amber, glass bottles from semi-volatiles and pesticides. These bottles are transported and disposed of in the trash dumpster near the ESS building. There have been complaints about broken glass on the pavement around the dumpster. To help prevent this from happening, puncture-resistant bags will be purchased. Any glass bottles or ampoules from the lab should be placed in these bags prior to disposal in the dumpster. There was also discussion regarding why these bottles cannot be recycled. Magdi suggested contacting the bottle vendor to determine if they have procedures for recycling the amber, glass bottles that we could use here at the lab.

Max briefly discussed the limestone neutralization tank. Kent, Max and Joy have worked on a proposal for having the limestone for the tank replaced. This proposal is currently in e-procurement.

Anne said that she has submitted test wipes of the ECD's stored in Pesticides for radiation testing. The Nickel-63 in the ECD's has a low level of radiation and is required to be wipe-tested periodically. Anne also confirmed that our license to store the ECD's is still valid. But we'd still like to determine a way to have the ECD's removed from the lab, perhaps through a vendor.

Edith asked about bottles being transported in the hallway by hand and whether there was a safer way to move glass bottles. It was agreed that whenever possible, especially with bottles containing environmental samples or chemicals, either a bottle-carrier or laboratory cart should be used for transport. This will help prevent a bottle from possibly slipping out of someone's hands.

Joe mentioned that the metals unit had some ammonium hydroxide solution and asked where best to store it. It was agreed that this base solution should be separated from acid solutions, preferably in a cabinet under a fume hood.

The paddles for the AED, located outside of Kent's office, have been replaced and will not expire until May 2013. John checks the AED every month as part of routine safety checks.

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.

Note that a safety committee meeting was not held during January 2011.

The next safety committee meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. Minutes were prepared by Max Overman and John Park on February 7, 2011. MO/JP