

LABORATORY SAFETY COMMITTEE

January 15, 2013

TO: All Laboratory Personnel
FROM: John Park, Laboratory Safety Committee
SUBJECT: January 7, 2013 Safety Committee Meeting Minutes
Participants: Anne Chandler, Edith Henderson, Magdi Ibrahim, Joe Jurgevich, Heather Morgan, Max Overman, John Park, Mark Starr

Safety Inspection:

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

Solvent Waste Transfer:

John and Max plan to transfer solvent waste from extractions and Wet Chemistry to the waste drum on January 22.

Electron Capture Devices:

Anne reported that it is time for the annual wipe-tests of the ECD's in Pesticides to be conducted. But first she will check to be sure that the radiation test lab is accepting samples (they are part of DHHS and are moving to the new lab building).

Tier II / EPCRA:

Max reported that it is also time for the annual Tier II / EPCRA reporting to be completed. Although the smaller storage tank for Argon puts the lab below the Tier II reporting threshold, the Argon and methylene chloride (at a minimum) will still have to be reported to Wake County (which has lower reporting thresholds). The county is also requesting that emergency response plans be developed for the reported chemicals (we'll work with Steve Kaasa on the plans).

Gloves in Extractions Area:

Anne said that use of the new gloves that had been purchased for use in washing separatory funnels in the organics extraction area has temporarily been suspended. This is due to contamination issues with surrogates that arose after the start of use of these new gloves. Until the source of contamination is identified, the regular nitrile gloves will be used for washing the funnels.

Mice in Wet Chemistry:

Magdi reported on a problem with mice in the Wet Chemistry lab during the Christmas holidays. Mouse droppings were found in several places in Wet Chemistry on December 27th. Traps were placed in

several locations, and one mouse was caught. Since then, no other mice have been caught and there have been no additional signs of mice in the lab. At this point, this appears to be an isolated incident. One reminder with regards to mice – please be sure to keep any food item containers/bags in the lab building closed or sealed.

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 February 4, 2013 at 10:30 a.m. Minutes were prepared by Max Overman and John Park on January 9, 2013. MO/JP