

## LABORATORY SAFETY COMMITTEE

April 15, 2009

**TO:** All Laboratory Personnel

**FROM:** John Park, Laboratory Safety Committee

**SUBJECT:** April 6, 2009 Safety Committee Meeting

**Participants:** Max Overman, John Park, Ray Kelling, Jeanne Carter,  
Angela Dexter, Paula Gauthier, Peggy Campbell

Ray stated that based on email responses from the laboratory units, approximately thirty magnetic latches are needed to repair drawers that will not remain closed. The original rubber pieces that hold the drawers closed are beginning to corrode and break apart. Ray will check with Joy to see if the latches can be ordered, and will also see if the company that built the laboratory drawers will replace the rubber pieces.

The stairwell cleaning is still in progress. The area around the deionized water tanks is better organized, but the area under the stairwell needs more cleaning. Old fluorescent light bulbs are now being stored outside of the building (between the gas cylinder pen and the argon tank pen).

John asked about annual physicals, but it looks like the physicals may be postponed until next year due to the budget constraints.

There was discussion concerning the need to insure that interns and temporary employees who come to work at the lab are properly trained regarding safety procedures. It was agreed that the training should be equivalent to that for regular employees (e.g., reading the Chemical Hygiene Plan, overview/training of the safety items in their work area, and completion of the safety orientation checklist by the supervisor). The supervisor for the lab unit would be responsible making sure that the training is completed.

-2-

John mentioned that he is still working on a list of particularly hazardous substances. Once the draft list is put together, it will be reviewed by the Safety Committee. A final draft will then be submitted to Steve Kaasa for his review. It was agreed that for standards used in the Organics Branch, it would be best to just submit a certificate listing the compounds and concentrations.

Peggy mentioned that Semivolatiles/Pesticides Unit had received a sample that was marked as being "hot" and asked if there should be guidelines for how to handle this type of sample. It was agreed that any guidelines should be in SOP's for the unit rather than the CHP. Ray mentioned that "hot" has always meant that the sampler knew that there was present a high level of an

environmental pollutant at the sampling site. This designation informs the analytical chemist that a dilution of the sample may be necessary in order to analyze it. It has never meant the presence of radioactivity.

During the week of March 30<sup>th</sup>, one of the chains for the gas cylinders in the cylinder pen was found un-fastened. When switching out gas cylinders, please be careful to re-fasten the chains so that the gas cylinders are secured to the fence. The gas supplier will also be informed about chaining tanks when they are delivered.

The next safety committee meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. Minutes were prepared by Jeanne Carter on April 15, 2009.

jp/jmc/mo