

## LABORATORY SAFETY COMMITTEE

May 13, 2008

**TO:** All Laboratory Personnel

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

**SUBJECT:** May 12, 2008 Safety Committee Meeting

**Participants:** John Park, Ray Kelling, Max Overman, Jeanne Carter,  
Joe Jurgevich, Peggy Campbell, Angela Dexter, Heather Parker

Peggy had a couple of changes for her sections of the Laboratory's Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP). One possible change is for section 23, part 10, which mentions following the Sanitary Use Ordinance for the City of Raleigh when a restricted substance is accidentally released into the sanitary sewage line. Peggy asked if we have a copy of that ordinance, which according to Ray we do not. Max will look into that further.

Regarding the drain lines for the lab, Ray gave a brief overview of how the system is set up. The drain lines from the lab units and receiving area (including sinks and fume hood sinks) go to a limestone treatment tank prior to release into the city's sanitary sewage line. The drain lines from the bathrooms and break room go directly to the sanitary sewage line.

John reminded the safety representatives that they should be performing and documenting monthly safety checks for their units. This includes safety showers, eye washes, fire extinguishers, and smoke detectors. And on a quarterly basis, safety hoods should be checked and documented with the velometer (located in John's office).

Safety reps should also make sure that the areas around eye washes are clear of any obstacles so that the eye washes have unrestricted access.

Ray discussed possible upgrades to the older safety hoods. This would involve placing an insert into each hood. These inserts have baffles to create a better circulation inside the hood while pulling less air from the lab rooms. This upgrade is designed to improve energy efficiency and to decrease building pressure imbalances which for the lab building are negative. As a result of the negative pressure, the outside exterior doors are difficult to open.

Ray also noted that as originally designed, the safety hoods are supposed to adjust flow intake when the door to that lab room is opened, building air pressure changes or when HVAC system changes air flow into the room. However, only two seem to be working correctly, the microbiology fecal coliform room and the certification lab room.

John continues working on incorporating current recommended revisions into the lab's CHP. When edits are complete, the revised CHP will be reviewed by the safety reps before being sent to Steve Kaasa for his final review and approval.

John discussed the division's subcommittee workplace safety workshop that is tentatively scheduled for August 18<sup>th</sup> that will tentatively take place at the Prairie Ridge Environmental Center (across from the armory).

For our Lab's safety program, John hopes to arrange for Ricky Edwards to come and do a fire safety class, as well as a representative from National Welders to do a gas cylinder class. This would be open to all employees.

Ray noted that the lab's building safety inspection results for April 2008 were turned in to the Division Safety Subcommittee. This is the lab's second safety inspection in the last year. The few minor problems found were immediately corrected.

There was a question about the recent power outages at the lab, two of which lasted 5 to 10 seconds. At this point, the source of those outages is unknown. It's possible they are due to nearby construction or utility work.

The next safety committee meeting is scheduled for June 2, 2008 at 10:30 a.m. Minutes were prepared by Jeanne Carter and Max Overman on May 13, 2008.

MO/jc