

## LABORATORY SAFETY COMMITTEE

May 10, 2013

**TO:** All Laboratory Personnel

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

**SUBJECT:** May 6, 2013 Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

**Participants:** Anne Chandler, Magdi Ibrahim, Joe Jurgevich, Heather Morgan, Max Overman, John Park, Mark Starr, Chris Cangemi, Kent Wiggins

### Chris Cangemi:

The new DWQ Safety Officer, Chris Cangemi, joined the safety committee for the monthly meeting. Chris is from Baltimore, where he worked with the fire department for 25 years. Now living in Clayton, he worked at N.C. State and DHHS before accepting his current position with DWQ. Chris brings a lot of knowledge regarding fire safety, emergency and evacuation procedures, and training to the division and will be able to provide guidance to the lab in maintaining and improving our safety program.

### Building Evacuation Procedures:

Anne mentioned the question from the April meeting about what is a safe distance to be from the building in case of a possible explosion. Chris mentioned that we could refer to the Emergency Response Guide (published by DOT) for more information. There was discussion about building evacuation, including what to do if someone cannot be accounted for when employees have gathered outside the building.

### Training:

Chris was asked about options for training for lab employees. In addition to continuing training for CPR and first aid, Chris would like to develop some scenario-based training in which specific safety issues for the lab would be addressed. This training would provide guidance relating to lab situations and could be more helpful to employees. Anne also mentioned training for the compressed gas cylinders, which was conducted a few years ago by the cylinder company – we should have that training again. DVD/video training might supplement this hands-on training.

### Fire Department:

There was discussion about ways to assist the fire department in case they have to respond to an emergency at the lab. Options discussed include installing a new sign at the entrance nearest to Edwards Mill Road, posting NFPA signs on lab doors indicating maximum hazards of chemicals in each room, and installation of a lock box.

### Fire Blankets:

Kent asked Chris about the fire blankets that are located in each end of the main hallway, and whether they are still considered an appropriate response when someone is on fire. Chris and Kent said that the issue is that if the blanket is grabbed and then twisted around the victim, the blanket can create a “chimney” effect as the flames still

burn upward. If the blankets are kept in the hallway, we need to change the instructions on the box – to use a fire blanket only with the classic “Stop-Drop-and Roll” procedure.

### **Laboratory Safety Inspection:**

John, Anne, and Max conducted a safety inspection of the laboratory following the meeting, and Chris accompanied them. There were no significant safety issues found, and Chris had the opportunity to get a more in-depth look at all of the lab units and safety items currently available.

### **State Capitol Police:**

The **State Capitol Police signs** posted at each building exit are being revised. Kent sent a draft version to the SCP and hopefully will get some feedback from them. The new signs will be posted with the correct telephone number and situations when to call SCP. The sign will also include when to call 911.

**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 June 3, 2013 at 10:30 a.m. Minutes were prepared by Max Overman and John Park on May 7, 2013. MO/JP