

**Group 4 Health & Safety Committee  
February 24, 2009  
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.  
T 269, Health Sciences Building  
Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Lisa Anderson, Hall Health  
Jim Angelosante, HS Admin, ExOfficio  
Ann Anmann, UWMC  
Rita Bellanca, WNRPC  
Paul Bentson, WFSE  
Siobhan Brown, SOM  
Laura Campbell, Comp Medicine  
Ed Farnham, HS Administration  
Retha Hay, Employee Health  
Pam Jorgensen, HMC  
Charlene Karr-May, Comparative Medicine  
Liz Kindred, HMC  
Brendon Lee, Nursing  
Rich Lee, Dentistry  
Kathy Maher, HMC  
Suzanne Mason, Hall Health  
Cindy Moore, Health Services, ExOfficio  
Phil Numoto, EH&S  
Nikki Peters, HS Administration and Ex-Officio  
Mamadou Sambou, UWMC  
Denis Sapiro, EH&S  
Eshy Shahrazad, HS Library, ExOfficio  
Mamadou Sambou, UWMC  
Chuck Treser, Public Health, Elected  
Melinda Young, WaNPRC

**ABSENT:** Daniel Chan, Dentistry  
Gail Colfax, Social Work  
Bob Ennes, HS Administration  
Patricia Hedtke, Pharmacy  
Dima Long, Pharmacy  
Barbara Lovseth, SOM  
Rene Lucas, Public Health  
Joyce Tsuji, Nursing

An announcement was made that Barbara Lovseth, chair, was ill and Ann Anmann was asked to run the meeting in her absence.

1. Meeting was called to order at 9:00 am and a quorum was declared (13 voting members present)
2. Minutes from January were read and approved. Chuck Treser motioned, Rita Bellanca, 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.
3. Denis Shapiro announced that supervisor training was ready for alpha testing in March. He asked for 10 volunteers from this committee to test the new system out. It will be approximately a 2 hour training class, held

sometime prior to March 15<sup>th</sup>. Location is still TBA. Please send Denis an email if you would like to volunteer at [shapiro@u.washington.edu](mailto:shapiro@u.washington.edu)

4. Nikki Peters distributed the written report from the hexane spill on the 15<sup>th</sup> floor of the BB towers.

Hexane is a volatile explosive

- A. Fire dept was not called to immediately respond nor was the area evacuated. Instead the lab people called EH&S first.  
Action recommended: Err on side of caution: Evacuate, Call and let the professionals respond for Safety's sake. Evacuation for haz-mat spills are 2 floors above and one floor below.
- B. Lab coats are not adequate PPE
- C. Spill Kits available in each lab, clearly marked, with training on how/when to use
- D. Too many chemicals were out in large quantities and not in safe containers-glass instead of plastic. Denis spoke about minimal chemical exposure in the event of an event-the fewest/smallest amount of chemical exposure, with the rest stored in safety containers, in safety cupboards is necessary to prevent even larger events; especially in cases like this one where hexane-a highly flammable liquid was being used.

Nowhere in the written report was a recommendation for training staff. Denis didn't know because Darren was the investigator. Group 4 recommends this be included as an action item, from this committee, if not. And to include fume hood training. Supervisor training is available 2/24/09, if the supervisor needs to attend also.

The report will be posted on EH&S website.

5. Denis was asked to investigate Plaza Kitchen exhaust fan for food odors. Apparent leakage from the kitchen into the lab across the hallway. Denis explained about negative ventilation/drawdown from air being sucked into the lab, then vented through filters before being returned to the outside environment. Will investigate.

Charlene, EH&S, Hal Merrill for lab survey/inspection. Ann motioned, Melinda, 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion to recommend that Hal commence a lab survey/inspection was passed. Denis should be cc'd on the lab survey also.

Retha Hay, Employee Health UWMC. Discussed the Blood Borne Pathogen collaborative team approach; have tracked the trends, noticed improvement on injuries as a result of sharps exposure, suture needles (self-inflicted injuries), splashes (from the OR in particular). The team has implemented several safety measures as a result of this team approach: a) Education safety, b) training, c) Reinforcement of the Neutral safety zone process and procedures (for passing of instruments, etc), d) Safety Catheter: Retha demonstrated a new needle and brought a couple that she passed around for a closer look, and e) Employee poster that employee health developed re safety tips to increase heightened awareness; particularly in the OR room. The CDC website needs to be modified to UWMC needs. They have an enhanced data base to track records, analyze patterns/trends.

6. Rich Lee, UWIDE safety meeting was held on 2/11.
  - a. The committee viewed a video office emergency on U-tube; humor if you haven't already viewed it.
  - b. April 30<sup>th</sup> from 1-4pm will be the annual drill. This year will be an unpredictable event happening on campus. There are trainings currently in process for the event. EOC will be activated this year for the event.
  - c. Incident that occurred at the D wing (powder scare). All information alerts will be coordinated through the UW's Public Affairs dept.
  - d. grant funds are available (\$100,00.00) for emergency preparedness. The grant does not cover personal kits; will cover radios/communication devices. Apply on-line at the emergency preparedness website.
  - e. Encourage everybody to sign up for the alert communication (MyUW). 13,611 people so far have-need many more to be effective
  - f. UWide sub-committees did not have anything to report

New EH&S director, Jude Van Buren has been appointed. Comes very well recommended with impressive credentials.

7. Denis Sapio, Environment Health and Safety
  - a. Reported that another electrician experienced a flash/burn and suffered 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns to his hand. The incident is being investigated.
  - b. There was a plumbing incident, no violations, just recommendations-will be able to discuss more next month.
  - c. Ocean 300A a summary of UW accident will be published on the EH&S website. The trade groups do not have access to the reports. Distribution is a problem-being discussed how to distribute this information to all 50 trade groups and their people.

8. Incident/Accident Reports:
  - a. Non-UWMC/HMC Report: Rita Bellanca reported both December/January incidents. There were a total of 4 incidents reported in December: fall-no identified cause/corrective actions-human error; HOV from plasma that fell from hands. Identified longer gloves, gown. Another incident involved clearing microtome. Written process in place identified.

A total of 19 incidents for reported for January. Some of the incidents noted are: Visiting scientist cut his finger on kinfo tool; Illness reported after an employee moved bookcase; Primate center-needle stick PPE, autoclaving, proper tools and thicker gloves recommended for task; Back injuries-moving cages-same old, no money in budget for cages that move themselves; more lift carts and back support devices; Vet specialist noticed abrasions/rash. Educated on rash protocol, disclosing solution; Discussed powder incident. Group noted they are receiving more supervisor comments with new reporting system

Would like to send a thank you from group 4 committee to say thank to supervisor for prompt action regarding a dentist/sharp scissor incident.

This led to a group discussion on merits of positive feedback to people when they do things correctly. Should letter come from committee or review committee or EH&S? Rich Lee made a motion that group 4 create a positive reward letter to send back to investigator/supervisor/employee. Denis Sapiro commented about being careful how to word this letter. Please do not thank the employee for having the incident but to stress the positive response to an incident behavior. The letter should also be cc'd to EH&S. A person in EH&S already working on this type of letter. Ann mentioned that we do not want to reinvent the wheel. Decided that this letter would be presented to the committee for discussion/approval at the next meeting (action item).

b. Cathy Maher, HMC Incidents: Tomorrow is their safety meeting-will present her yearly summary at next month's meeting. For December-47 incidents; received manager comments on almost all of the reports. Lift-5 reported, 3 needed medical attention. Identified that some had proper lifting equipment but staff weren't waiting for the second person to assist them; more education/training needed.

Paul reported a discussion about meal hosts entering rooms that were isolated or quarantined. L&I were invited to attend a meeting on how to let the meal hosts deliver the trays-whether full PPE needed to put a tray down or not. These rooms were not airborne transmission diseases; needed body contact. Very collaborative process with L&I, union, management, translator-but successful!

Rest of Cathy's report:

Lifts, trips, falls; identified causes-weather, seldom used doors, NIOSH, will bring article next month to committee for distribution. Mostly followed up with manager/person writing the report-still in process

c. Ann Aumann, UWMC Incidents: Receiving the report in a different format now-much easier to review. 30 incidents for December received-numbers are way down 10 lifts/moving 7 lifting patient 6 slip, trips, falls Nursing station was discovered to have downhill slope; the nurses chairs roll away when they get up

January – 29 incidents-13 lifts/moving, 5 lifting patients, 7 slips, trips, falls, Lifts in rooms-not using them; still sliding patients on thin blue slide Need more education. Phil asked to assist.

9. Denis Sapiro mentioned that signs were posted in the Rotunda café-Hep A self-reported last week. Investigated; person used good food handling practices, not worried about an outbreak-as a safety precaution to even post the notice. Class and room-mates notified and offered treatment. Discussed food workers mandatory Hep vaccinations required (they are at Harborview). Haven't had an incident of this kind since major restaurant outbreak back in the 90's.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20.