

Health Sciences Safety Committee Meeting

Minutes

January 26, 2006

Present:

Kim Bryner
Mike Cain
Andy Cockburn
Cindy Dalton
Thomas Hussion

Marilyn Howton
Bob Lemley
Kevin Simpkins
Bob Smith
Trudy Weery

Absent:

Ben Cantoni
Nina Clovis
Dianne DeAngelis
Brad Fansler
Lt. Allen Hill

Jeff Kerns
Ben Johnson
Grove Pennington
Debbie Pikel
Nasser Razmianfar

Agenda:

1. Annual Safety Committee Report Review.
2. Number of Autoclaves and Inspection for Safety.
3. Equipment in Hallways.
4. Missing Ceiling Tile in the Cancer Center.
5. Lab Audit Reports.
6. Lawyer in Asbestos Suit toured HSC.
7. CAD System uses for Safety.
8. Manifest for New P.I's.
9. Neutral Field.
10. Construction and Parking.
11. Security.

The meeting opened at 1 PM.

Mr. Smith: First, I want to welcome Bob Lemley back! Then he indicated the annual Safety Committee report had been completed and past around the report for the committee to review.

Dr. Cockburn: Indicated he had gotten a number on the autoclaves in HSC. I think there are about 10 wall mounted ones. He was working on getting a company to come in and make an assessment on the condition of all of these autoclaves because the most of them are quite old and could be a potential safety hazard. Biochemistry's autoclaves seem to be in the worst shape. One has a broken door and another autoclave's electronic controls became damaged by a flood. The department also has a small tabletop that still is being used. There are two places where there are new ones, Microbiology and the Cancer Center. Part of the problem with most of them is that there has been misuse of some of them because no one has been put in charge to look after them or to train people how to use them. Most of them do not have maintenance contracts. Microbiology dropped their contract because it was too expensive. Biochemistry has a contract until the end of this month, but it will not cover fixing the door or the controls.

Mr. Hussion: The one autoclave that was damaged in the flood that Bob ask me to look at seemed to have a solenoid bad. The water just keeps running. It is pretty good size, and we (maintenance Engineering) have not been trained to work on them. All we can do is work on the utilities such as the water and steam. We can hook them up and disconnect them but not do the maintenance.

Dr. Cockburn: I have spoken to Dr. Butcher concerning the operational condition of the autoclaves. I talked to Steris, and was told they do service when they are called, but some of them they can no longer get parts.

Mr. Simpkins: Andy, did you get the information on the autoclave service companies you had asked for at the last meeting? I sent it to you.

Dr. Cockburn: Yes! I did, I found a company that will come in and give us an evaluation. I would think the best way to handle the autoclave problem would be to let those that need to autoclave make arrangements with either the Microbiology Center or your area Kevin. Micro has Valerie in charge of theirs and you are in charge of the Cancer Center's facility.

Mr. Smith: Indicated, a lot of things are getting put into hallways throughout the HSC. One place is the Cancer Center. The hallways are narrow. With furniture, tables with eats and drinks it is hard to move through them. Kevin has any of the items been taken from the hallways in the Cancer Center?

Mr. Simpkins: Some of the stuff has been taken out, but not all.

Mr. Smith: Did the tile that had been missing in the Cancer Center Ceiling get replaced?

Mr. Simpkins: Some of them did, but there are others missing.

Ms. Bryner: I have a question concerning the reports from the Lab Audits. Where should they go, Who gets them? Shouldn't the CHO get a copy of the final report. The reason I asked is because it's difficult for the CHO to know what the final report says.

Dr. Cockburn: Who do you think gets them?

Ms. Bryner: The Chairs, but nothing seems to filter down to the CHO.

Dr. Cockburn: I think this information should be on a web page so that the CHO and the PI would have access to the report.

Mr. Lemley: What do the chairs do now with the reports?

Ms. Howton: When I do the audits I set up a time with the CHO of that department and copy the Chairs. The reports are generated, a copy goes down to E.H.& S., one copy is sent to Bob Lemley, and a copy goes to the Chairs. I've started on my second time around and in some cases I haven't seen much change in some of the departments. Some departments haven't sent me their chemical inventories. The chemical inventories are needed to bring the 704s up to date. There are some departments, that have old emergency numbers posted on the 704's and their CHO is no longer current.

Mr. Smith: Marilyn, did you get the chemical inventory from Pathology yet. I spoke to Doug Toothman and told him that if we didn't get their chemical inventory, we might have to shut down some labs. I think enforcement is needed to bring them into compliance.

Ms. Howton: Yes!

Dr. Cockburn: New people should be made aware that we only have limited space and resources before they show up. They are bringing old refrigerators, where maintenance is expected to fix or drain the freon out of them and pay to get rid of them. They bring old equipment and furniture that has to be trashed. We have no place to store the stuff when they come in. It gets put into the hallways and creates a potential safety hazard.

Mr. Lemley: What does the department Chairs do? They should let the new person know what is available when they get here. Some of the information should be given to them. I'm sure they have seen either the plans or the space of where they will be located.

Dr. Cockburn: We are working on a policy for a manifest for new PI s modeled after the Laboratory Closeout Policy. Protocols here may be different, but compliance should be the same. They should spend time on the WVU web-site to see what is expected before they hire in. Although, I've heard comments that are not very good concerning the WVU web-site.

Ms. Bryner: I've had experience in the past with new people, It is hard to get a chemical inventory from them.

Dr. Cockbrn: It might be, their protocols were different where they came from. Our requirements should be posted on the WVU web-site. So they will know ahead of their coming here what is expected of them.

Mr. Smith: Cindy, did the tile in your Dean's office get replaced?

Ms. Dalton: Yes, everything is all clear now!

Mr. Hussion: Is the paint job O.K.?

Ms. Dalton: The Dean is happy with everything.

Mr. Lemley: I wanted to let everyone know concerning the asbestos suit that was file against WVU. Their lawyer Mr. Trout showed up for a tour of WVU buildings. He toured HSC. I'm sure everyone saw it in the newspaper. Dr. Alan Ducatman's department will handle the medical monitoring for the University.

Ms. Howton: Did you get any indication of how we stand.

Mr. Lemley: Not really, he just wanted to look around the building. Other items I want you to be aware of, we are trying to tie our safety program into a CAD System. The CAD System has nice new features that can handle many of our Safety issues. Everything can be identified by room, and show what it is used for and what it has in it. We are working on many safety issues and trying to get some programs off the ground.

Mr. Smith: The annual report shows the number of needle sticks for this year. All most have occurred at the Hospital.

Ms. Weery: Are these incidents all needle sticks or are they sharps incidents.

Mr. Smith: They are Sharps incidents that include needle sticks, but they are reported as puncture incidents.

Ms. Weery: At the hospital, we have introduced "neutral field" to cut down on the sharps accidents.

Ms. Howton: What is a "neutral field"?

Ms. Weery: Gave an explanation of "neutral field" and how it is used. The Infection Control Committee has discussed this safety issue and recommended this procedure be used. It is in place and now is required, this should help the sharps accident rate.

Mr. Lemley: How long has the hospital been doing this?

Ms. Weery: We just started!

Mr. Simkins: Where is this used, and who uses it?

Ms. Weery: mostly operating rooms. Nurses and MD's when they pass sharps will now put them down onto something like a tray in stead of "hand-to-hand". Passing "hand-to-hand" is where most of the accidents occur.

Ms. Howton: May you want to bring up about the construction and parking.

Mr. Smith: Go ahead! You can do it.

Ms. Howton: The new construction that is going to take place is going to relocate parking to the fill area down over the hill. The first part of lot 80 will be taken by the construction. People will probably have to walk up the hill. Fred (Butcher) said at the meeting there probably will not be any sidewalks or lighting. I think the Safety Committee should get involved and make some recommendations, because of the safety issues of no lighting and sidewalks. There will be some of the handicap parking spaces lost. We should also collect some information on the handicap spaces. I think there has to be a minium for the number of employees.

Dr. Cockburn: Before we adjourn, Fred also indicated, security should be tightened at the HSC. What has happened around here with the miner being brought to Ruby, the Press and the incident with the people from out west doing "crazy" demonstrations against the tragedy we should be more alert of what is going on at the HSC.

Meeting Adjourned at 2: 20 PM.