

Health Sciences Safety Committee Meeting

Minutes

February 23, 2006

Present:

Andy Cockburn Bob Lemley
Nina Clovis Grove Pennington
Cindy Dalton Kevin Simpkins
Lt. Allen Hill Bob Smith
Marilyn Howton Trudy Weery
Thomas Hussion

Absent:

Kim Bryner Jeff Kerns
Mike Cain Ben Johnson
Ben Cantoni Debbie Pikel
Brad Fansler Nasser Razmianfar

Agenda:

1. Sidewalks and Lighting for New Parking Lot.
2. Safety Inspection of Autoclaves.
3. Sprinkler System Installation.
4. Non-Operational of Emergency Telephone in Cancer Center Elevator.
5. Bumper Blocks Loose in Parking Lot.
6. New Equipment for Checking Air Quality.
7. "Stuff " in Hallways.
8. Air System removed from Animal Operating Room.

The meeting opened at 1 PM.

Mr. Smith: Indicated from last months meeting there was a Safety concern about sidewalks and lighting of the new parking area over the hill. Also there was a concern to whether there would be enough Handicap Parking. It was suggested at our last meeting, the Safety Committee should get involved to make sure there would be adequate sidewalks and lighting and also find out if the handicap parking is going to be within the ADA requirement. He indicated that for now the sidewalks and the lighting would not be put into place. He did check and found out the number of handicap spaces are more than what is required by ADA.

Discussion followed Mr. Smith's remarks concerning the potential safety aspects of not having the sidewalks and lighting in the new area parking lot. During this discussion, not only the potential safety issues were address, mentioned also was a possibility of potential liabilities to WVU. It was the consensus of the committee members present for the Chair to write a memo urging sidewalks and lighting to be installed on the hill parking lot.

Dr. Cockburn: Indicated, the autoclave folks came in and done an assessment of all of our autoclaves. They gave their recommendation concerning the autoclaves. Just as we had known the wall mounted ones in Biochemistry were the worst. They suggested we go ahead with the proposed autoclave policy. Everyone doing autoclaving will have to be trained before using an autoclave. There is a potential safety hazard for someone that isn't trained on autoclave use can either get hurt by the steam or damage the unit like those in Biochemistry. There are two CORE facilities, one in Microbiology and the Cancer Center. There is a small one that is being used in Physiology. Kevin (Simpkins) and I have already given a training session over in the Cancer Center. Valerie in Micro has already given approval to train individuals. She will not let anyone use the autoclaves unless she trains them first.

Ms. Howton: Micro has their autoclaves on a swipe card that protects who can use them.

Mr. Lemley: What's with the sprinklers?

Mr. Hussion: The third floor of HSN is almost done, we will probably finish up the third floor by the end of this month. We still have the equipment room on the fifth floor to do and HSN will be completely sprinkled.

Ms. Dalton: They were doing something to the sprinklers over in HSS. What was that all about?

Mr. Hussion: We had to change out the old sprinkler heads with new ones.

Lt. Hill: There seems to be a lot of problems from bumper blocks down in the "pit" parking lot. They are not fastened down and have moved around. I'm afraid someone is going to fall on these as they get out of their car. These need to be anchored by putting some rebar down through them so they don't move. If the rebar isn't put in

flush with the top of the block, it can tear up a small car if they run over it. There also need to be signs put up warning not to move the bumper blocks.

Mr. Simpkins: Had a safety concern, he indicated a person got stuck in the elevator at the Cancer Center and tried to use the emergency telephone in the elevator but it didn't work. Apparently this telephone hasn't been working during working hours. The elevator has been very slow lately and needs to have maintenance check it.

Mr. Pennington: I think that elevator is a hydraulic one. There are two of these, one in the Cancer Center and one in the Annex. That's why it takes so long to get from one floor to another. The doors are always slow in opening and closing.

Ms. Howton: We didn't know that, it sounds like we will have to check on the oil.

Mr. Smith: Buck, (Pennington) you might want to tell the committee about the new equipment you have for checking the ventilation.

Mr. Pennington: We have an AIQ. We can measure the air quality, temperature, CO₂ level, humidity, and particulate sizes and levels. We have a digital camera at our disposal that we can look behind through small opening for mold and dust. We are short handed in my department I have one person that changes filters in the air handlers. It is an old building, with dirt in the ventilation ducts. We have found that the foam filters work the best because the holes in the foam are random holes and not just in even grids. One of the biggest complaints we get is for dirt. At least with the new gadgets we are able to determine what we are dealing with.

Ms. Howton: I'm still working on lab audits. I just finished up the Cancer Center and we sent out their report. I have been working down in Microbiology. Micro has taken some steps to clear up some of the things that were found on the first time through. They have removed a lot of the boxes they had piled on cabinets up to the ceiling, and have gotten rid of a lot of old chemicals and "trash."

Dr. Cockburn: What about the tables in the hallways, do you see anything wrong with the small tables they put there drinks on?

Ms. Howton: No problem, I'm doing lab audits. But there is a problem, back in that short hallway next to Chis Cuff's place there are storage cabinets and other things stored on both sides of the hallway that would pose a problem if there were an emergency. These things should only be put on one side of the hallway. I did find some hoods that were not working.

Mr. Pennington: Let us know where they are at and we will get them fixed

Ms. Howton: Micro still has some chemicals stored under sinks. They have indicated they put their radio labeled waste under there to decay. We found out about this when micro had a stopped up drain and the bottom of the sink had a lock on it and no one could get into the sink to work on it until Radiation safety did a check to see if there was radioactivity present. There should not be any hazardous chemicals stored under sinks. They have told me they have been doing this for a long time and they have permission from Radiation safety. Other than that, things look pretty good.

Mr. Hussion: We have to work on the sinks there should not be anything hazardous stored under them. We have to get into the bottom cabinets to shut off the water. There should not be any locks put on these cabinets. We plumbers don't have any idea when we have to crawl under a sink of what we are going to lie down in. In this case there were Radiation stickers on the sink and it was locked. The shift person tried to call the persons on the 704 but could not reach anyone on the lists. So radiation Safety was called.

Mr. Smith: We do have a problem with the 704's names being out of date. With a lot of moving of lab people it is hard to keep these up to date. That is what we are trying to do with the lab audits.

Ms. Howton: We can't update the 704's until I can get the chemical inventories.

Mr. Lemley: Buck, we are trying to put together a data system that deals with all of the things that are potential safety issues. Ventilation seems to be an issue, I need your input.

Mr. Pennington: We have a data system set up for the HVAC.

Mr. Lemley: Is it a TMA System?

Mr. Pennington: Partly, we will be putting it in soon.

Mr. Lemley: let me know when it is ready to go. I want to work it into our data system.

Ms. Clovis: I have no safety issues, I just want everyone to know they came and took out the air handling system with the hepa filters from our animal operating room.

Meeting Adjourned at 2: 20 PM.