



Health Sciences Safety Committee

Meeting

Thursday, September 27, 2007

1:30-2:30

Present:

Kim Bryner, Thomas Hussion, Jeff Kerns, Bob Lemley, Kevin Simpkins, Lisa Hatfield and Stephanie Graham-Sims

Absent:

Mike Cain, Cindy Dalton, Ben Cantoni, Lt. Allen Hill, Nina Clovis, Andy Cockburn, Grove Pennington, Dianne DeAngelis, Debbie Pikel
Trudy Werry, Brad Fansler, Nasser Razmainfar

I. Welcome

II. Discussion

a) Committee Additions, deletions and suggestions

We are currently looking at the composition of the committee and may make some additions to the committee to replace positions that have been vacated due to retirement etc. Lana Bunner, R.N. from Employee Health at U.H.A. has accepted an invitation to be on the committee.

b) Dentistry and Family Practice -Portable Isolation Unit

A portable heap-filtration unit has been purchased by HSC Facilities to be used for isolation purposes when dealing with patients with known or suspected contagious diseases. The unit is being shared and maintained by Family Medicine and Dentistry.

During our discussion regarding the unit, the question arose as to the Cancer Center's protocol in a similar situation. Follow-up with Infection Control will occur. DPS also needs to obtain surgical masks to offer upon patient arrival.

c) Experiment incident in hallway

Recently a Research Associate was carrying plastic vials of sternal cells that were stored in liquid nitrogen from one lab to another. He suspected that the vials became warm, developed vapor pressure and exploded while being transported in the hallway. The cells had no known pathogens. The spill was cleaned with lab-grade disinfectant.

Experiment incident in hallway (continued)

The material should have been transported lab to lab with secondary containment. Additionally, the research associate was not wearing any laboratory personal protective equipment. He should have had a lab coat, gloves and safety glasses on when transporting and working with the material.

d) Webpage

HSC Safety Office's Graduate Student, Lisa Hatfield provided a print-out of webpage usage. The HSC Safety Office webpage is continuing to grow in usage. There have been visitors from all over the world and the top three searches of the site have been for:

- Work Orders
- Laboratory
- Safety Committee

e) DOT training

Several HSC employees attended Department of Transportation packing and shipping training last week. This training taught participants how to pack and ship properly via ground transportation. Training on proper packing and shipping for air transport will be scheduled soon. If you know someone in your area that needs this training, please contact the HSC Safety Office.

f) MIMS Training + WVU & HSC Emergency Response Plan

Work has begun on developing the HSC section of the WVU Emergency Response Plan. Training of the initial planning group is taking place and additional details will be forthcoming.

g) Traffic arms in parking lot/construction in front of building

Re-design of the gate entrances are taking place and the traffic arms will be activated in the near future. Specific details and times are forthcoming.

III. Next meeting

- a.) **Thursday, October 25, 2007 at 1:30 p.m.**