

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF EARTH, OCEAN and ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES

EOAS/ESB SAFETY TEAM
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 26, 2019
ESB Room 2064
9:30am - 10:30am

Present: Tim Morgan (Co-Chair), Marc Bustin (Co-Chair), Denise Feighan (PIMS), Rich Friedman, John Mendes (MDRU), Mark Johnson, Kate Blackburn (Dean's Office), Connor Henderson (Graduate Student Representative)

Regrets: Ian Ayeras (Secretary), Peggy Ng (Statistics), Bethany Ladd

Action Items:

- **Meeting called to order: 9:32AM**

Adoption of previous Safety Committee Meeting Minutes: Thursday, June 27, 2019

Approved: DF

Seconded: JM

1. ACCIDENT/INCIDENT REPORTS:

- Incident report #125150 | August 1, 2019 (see attachment) – TM summarized the incident involving a post-doc who experienced a chemical bottle labelled HNO_3 disintegrated in their gloved hand and adorned the floor, their hand, and their lab coat with its contents. The metal tray containing the bottle had a hole eaten through the metal. This was a container that had been abandoned by a previous lab member. No first aid was required. The lab has not been conducting monthly inspections for a while and also did not have a process in place to handle identification and disposal of abandoned/excess chemicals. Also their chemical labelling process was not in accordance with WHMIS or UBC standards. The PI has met with their lab members to address all these issues.
- Incident report #125249 | August 19, 2019 (see attachment) – TM summarized the incident involving a staff member who hurt their back while lifting a carton of copy paper from a cart to place on a trolley. They felt a small burning sensation at the time but did not experience any undue pain until they got home. The supervisor advised that the staff member was used to this duty as they have done it many times in the past and are familiar with the proper way to lift the boxes of copy paper. They weigh about 50 lbs. The supervisor advised that it appears there was a momentary lapse of attention by the staff member. The supervisor will be working with the staff member to ensure that they are reminded of the need to be cautious when lifting heavy items and the proper lifting procedures. KB mentioned that taking the individual packages from the heavy carton might be a way of limiting the chance of back strain.

2. ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

- None

3. NEW BUSINESS

- TM reminded the Committee that the ESB/EOSS/EOSM inspections need to be completed and the results uploaded to the Science JOHSC website by the end of November. This means that we need to start the inspections as soon as possible. We need to aim to have the inspections done by October 31, 2019 if at all possible, but by November 15, 2019 at the latest. RF has agreed to conduct the lab inspections in EOSM and will seek assistance as required. ML has agreed to conduct the lab inspections in ESB. TM will conduct the non-lab inspections in EOSM and the common building spaces (exterior and interior) in ESB, EOSS and EOSM. DF, PN and KB will coordinate the office inspections in their areas of ESB. EOSS will start with the normal self-inspections with follow up as required. The new SRS (formerly RMS) General Inspection Checklist and Report Template (see attachment) will be used this inspection cycle as per the requirements of the Science JOHSC and SRS.
- MB raised the issue of overcrowded conditions in the gas cylinder storage cages behind EOSM. There are too many cylinders for the cages. Empty cylinders need to be chained outside the cages for pickup by Praxair. This is an ongoing issue. TM indicated that there have been attempts in the past to weed out older tanks, but those efforts have been unsuccessful. In fact the last time the weeding process was attempted, tanks that were not claimed by their previous owners, were claimed by another lab for their use. Many of those tanks have not in fact been used since. TM will attempt to identify any tanks that have not been used in a significant time and arrange to have them removed and returned to Praxair to make room inside a locked cage for empties.
- The Committee members agreed that the standard meeting time of the last Thursday of each month at 9:30 am is still an applicable meeting day/time.
- TM informed the Committee that the ESB/EOAS Safety Committee/LST has won an Award for Innovative Promotion of Safety Culture. This award will be presented to the Committee at the 2019 Safety Day event being held in the Jack Poole Hall in the Alumni Centre on October 1. TM requested that any Committee Member who is not already attending this event, make every effort to show up at 3 pm on the day to join us on stage to accept the award.
- TM/JM advised the Committee of a potential project being organized by SRS Chemical Safety Group to provide an easy process on-site in ESB/EOSM for labs to bring their old chemicals for disposal, instead of having to go through the formal process which is more arduous. SRS personnel would come to a designated location in ESB/EOSM where labs can bring their unwanted chemicals for disposal. The Committee will be informed once the details have been finalized.

Meeting Adjourned 10:02 am

Next Safety Team Meeting - Thursday October 31, 2019