

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

EOAS/ESB LOCAL SAFETY TEAM
MEETING MINUTES
(EOAS)

Tuesday, March 15th, 2022

Zoom Room
1:30pm – 2:30pm

Present: Raymond Andersen (Chair), Alice Chang (PCIGR), Anne-Martine Doucet (Graduate Student Representative), Brian Hunt, Bethany Ladd, Emma Liu (secretary), Mary Macquistan, Sebastian Medrano, Matthijs Smit

Regrets: Tim Morgan

Action Items:

- **Meeting called to order:** 1:32 PM

Adoption of previous Safety Committee Meeting Minutes:

Approved: Bethany Ladd

Seconded: Matthijs Smit

1. ACCIDENT/INCIDENT REPORTS:

- Perchloric acid contamination in ESB
 - A contractor found high concentration of perchloric acid when tested one of the perchloric acid fume hoods in ESB, and it was reported to SRS shortly after. Currently, one fume hood has contamination and the other one is waiting for testing. SRS has talked to the technician involved with the facility and has done some investigation. The fume hoods have been shut down and SRS has provided some guidance about the operation.
 - SM questioned that as it has moved over to SRS, should the LST work on anything or is it under SRS' jurisdiction.
 - RA indicated that since SRS had taken over the incident, it's not in the hand of LST. MS added that as this is hazard waste disposal activity, there is no expertise or mandate to fix similar deficiency, we have to escalate that up to university level.
 - MS questioned that whether there is any regular checkup for perchloric acid fume hoods. SM explained that not all labs have constant checkup. However, not many people use perchloric acid in the one fume hood that has contamination.
 - MS will inform the LST if we need to put out any regulation.

2. ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

- Follow-up on our lab inspections
 - RA and EL had reached out to PIs who did not reply on the deficiencies in lab inspections. We still have one outstanding reply need to follow up, deadline of April 1st has been given.
 - RA will circle back to Corey Wall and Ross McCulloch to see if the changes have been made and close it off.
- Feedback on draft memo that Raymond sent to Philippe
 - Philippe had sent out the memo on Mar 11, one point he did not put in the memo is whether clubs need to fill in the field work safety plan, as it is not clear that if they are under the department liabilities.

- MS indicated that it will depend on what rule the department are using for these trips, are they considering it as a department sponsored trip or just clubs going out on a hiking trip on their own. RA commented that we can go to the clubs and talk to them about our concerns.
 - Brett Gilley is organizing a class field trip which is covered by Philippe's memo, he's willing to do the paperwork and wondered that if they should provide names and contact numbers of people who's going on the field trip and if students can sign off a waiver.
 - AMD indicated that the grad council was planning to create a waiver instead of submitting the safety plan. She can bring it back to them to see if they have any suggestions.
 - MM added that it would be easier to have the waiver at the beginning of the school year and the organizer could submit something for each individual event that could be a shorter version.
 - BL and AMD questioned what exactly is the waiver included, AMD explained that it's essentially regarding the department liability if they get hurt in the field.
 - BL added that the reason we push back against waiver for research trips and field school is that if students get hurt, it will be our responsibility to help them. MS concluded that, we can provide a short form for groups with names and contact information beforehand in the beginning of the year, which becomes a database build for the department, and they can fall back to the list without requesting every time. One thing they need to be responsible for is to keep the contact information up to date.
 - RA ask MS to summarized a short description of how this will work, and RA will send it to Philippe to sign off, MM and AMD can reach out to grad council, to get whoever is in charge of the trips to sign off in order to have record, and we can do the same thing with clubs.
 - BL commented that whether we can expand the review committee list for safety plans. BH seconded that it is important to have a pool of people in order to deal with rapid turnarounds. People who are submitting the risk assessment are also in the pool of reviewers, it could provide positive feedback in helping everyone building this culture.
 - RA recommended everyone to submit some names and suggestions to EL and RA, RA will circulate around for approval. BH questioned that if the names can be expanded to RA and post-doc, RA indicated that Philippe will take responsibility, so maybe there is no liability to person who review the plan.
 - MS added that the important thing for people we are appointing for is that whether they are long-term familiar with how the department works.
 - BL commented that it is great to use strong language to emphasize two-week minimum in terms of submitting safety plan, but we also have to keep flexibility to help colleagues get to the field. BH seconded that take the Bamfield field course as an example, they had the best extension to get everything ahead of time, but they cannot do anything as it was out of their control when they were waiting for information from Bamfield and got approval on their protocols. So it would be better put strong language to get people be prepared in advance.
 - BH indicated when they took the Bamfield field course, there was a table for additional medical information of participants, TM reviewed and did not recommend it to be included in the plan as this is private information. BL commented that we used to have a separate medical form which was confidential, but it was hard to identify who have access to these information, and how to make sure it's accessible when the time comes. So we may think about how to adapt the medical information so that people do not mind sharing with everyone.
 - RA added that this may need to consult with university lawyer as this is very personal information. BH will write a brief memo about how we should handle the issue.
- Follow-up on rock saw safety training
- SM talked with Philippe, and is going to write a plan to control user access and training procedure, the draft is expected to finish by the end of March.

3. NEW BUSINESS:

- Classroom security event occurred in Simon Peacock's class
- AC questioned if we can put together a short protocol for instructors and if there is any protocol from university level to follow, since we probably are expecting something similar again.
 - MS commented that if the university is working with the idea that this could happen more often

with climate courses, then it's the university's failure. In this particular case, perhaps we should find out who these people were, and the university should stand up against it to give us a signal that this is not acceptable.

- RA will reach out to Simon to see if he has been in touch with university level.
- AC added that there was a zoom bombing incident in one of the climate forum last month, the zoom link was advertised on Twitter and Facebook, and someone bombed the session through that way. Just to remind people of what they are advertising online.
- SM indicated that we have emergency contact numbers inside of classroom, just make sure people have access to these numbers.
- MS wondered if we should store an emergency weapon in the classroom, SM commented that it could be a substantial expense, and if we are doing this, it should come from central.
- MS added that a button will not cost much and we should push hard to university about our safety concerns. AC seconded that a panic button would work in situation like active shooter or hostage taken.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:20 pm

Next Safety Team Meeting:

- **EOAS: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 1:30 PM.**
- **Dean's office, Stats, PIMS: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 11:00 AM.**