

University Health and Safety Committee
Date of Meeting: September 23, 2020 / Zoom
Time: 2:30 – 4:00 pm
Location: Via Zoom

Attendees:

Marcia Dickson, Heidi Melton, Chandra Char, Kay Miller, Marcus Silkman, Ogan Agirseven, Jennifer McKay, Martha Adams, Bill Callender, Dan Kermoyan, Tarrigon Van Denburg, Sam Gras, Jon-Michael McDaniel, Keith Foster, Ryan Mitchell, Laura Beaver, Tom Doyle, Mike Bamberger, Stephanie Harrison, Jim Patton, Carrie Burkholder, Linda Nye, Mike Mayers, Debi Rothermund, Rachel Burgess

1. Call to Order –Agenda

Meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm.

2. July and August 2020 – Minutes Consideration and Approval

July minutes – motion to approve by Laura, seconded by Stephanie. July minutes approved.

August minutes – motion to approve by Laura, seconded by Jennifer contingent on correction to list of attendees to include Jennifer. August minutes approved.

3. Recent and Ongoing Business

3.1 Policy Sub- Committee/Work Group Reports/Assignments (PENDING)

Still TBD. DK talked with Chris Viggiani last week, it's still in the works. DK will let the committee know when there is an update. Other work is awaiting approval, so this needs to be a recurring agenda item until it is resolved.

3.2 Safety Walks (Kay M) –submit completed Excel file in UHSC Box

Extension does walk-throughs every quarter, includes sidewalks and parking lots. Extension has an off-campus safety group that meets quarterly. Research Way properties that are owned by OSU should be included in Safety Walks. Kay will develop a map for a new safety walk route to include Research Way properties for next year.

3.3 Action Items Update

Dan talked with the Biological Safety Officer, Matt Philpott, about syringes. Dan is arranging with vendors to either demonstrate or provide samples of safety syringes. Dan will work with Ryan Mitchell on this (EH&S is starting the process with Vet Med).

Jennifer noted that using the old-style syringes is good training for students so they know how to use them when they begin working outside of OSU, where they are still used extensively. There are many uses for syringes. Dave Adams (SAIF) has not yet provided Dan with needle stick resources.

4. Accident & Inspection Reports

4.1 Accident Reports – prior month (Heidi)

Vet Med is to be commended for having only one incident this month.

Mental health needs to be considered with respect to the pandemic and wildfires. HR has provided information on resources that are available to employees. The College of Health and Human

Performance has Zoom check-in meetings (not work-related) twice per week, which have been helpful. Employee Assistance Program provided resources and information and a webinar in May. EAP has a new group that started in July which seems to be very good. Leadership in each department needs to set the tone, check in with their employees. May discuss this further next meeting.

4.2 Fire Safety Inspections are posted in Box (Jim Patton and Kay M)

Continuing and looking good. A new inspection app is being used. Things are going well with the Corvallis Fire Department partnership. The EH&S fire group is now walking every building every year, which is an increase of about 30%. There are fewer non-compliance items being noted. A few systems were activated due to smoke from wildfires; they were addressed by the alarm shop. Steps were taken to try to prevent those nuisance alarms.

4.3 Facilities Monthly Life/ Safety Work Orders/ Report (Facilities Services)

There were some reports of the smell of smoke in buildings, which was due to wildfire activity.

There was a downed tree near Weniger; Facilities Services has taken care of it.

Odor complaint at Oak Creek Building was determined to have been caused by construction work.

4.4 On-Call Log / Report of Unsafe Conditions (EHS)

A gas smell in the Apiary building was investigated. No leaks were found. The odor probably occurred when the heat was turned on for the first time in several months.

5. New Business

5.1 Fire and Smoke After-Action Review

- Chandra Char – as an OSU student, no good information was provided. She received information via OSU listserv to grad students during the first couple of days only, but didn't receive good instructions related to evacuation.
- Jennifer noted that individuals can sign up for Benton County emergency notifications and receive them via text. Mike B provided the link to the [Benton county emergency alert website](#).
- There are still some level 3 evacuations in the state.
- Closure leave was confusing, re-opening information was difficult to find.
- Had challenges with knowing when to re-open with contractors etc. Departments had to make the decision as to whether to continue/open for contractors. Messaging was unclear. Need standardization for closure rules. Messaging was not consistent and closure updates were not reported by a certain time of day. The air quality index indoor reading at Dixon exceeded 300 in one area. Recommendation to use N95s was questionable, due to Covid concerns. The N95 masks provide better protection from particulates like ash, but it has been recommended that N95 masks be reserved for medical providers for Covid protection.
- Cleaning scientific equipment that was covered with ash might be covered by insurance, talk to Aliesha Milligan in Insurance and Risk Management Services. Facilities is working on coordinating cleanup of labs; this requires lab staff to be available.
- IAQ readings indicating whether or not it is safe inside buildings would be appreciated if distributed to staff via building managers or mass emails. Grad students could miss the message – there needs to be a system for notifying all affected individuals.
- Mike B will be working with administration to develop metrics for future events. The recent wildfires and subsequent air quality issues were unprecedented for the state of Oregon. OSU

was not as ready as we should have been; will apply lessons learned. Resilience within the university must be developed, including things like improving ventilation systems, etc.

- Practice with incident management team was suggested.
- Tom provided a resource from the University of California on [wildfire smoke and air quality](#).
- There needs to be a good definition of who is essential. Human Resources makes the determination, which must be included in the position description.
- Covid and wildfire responses were in direct conflict with each other. Closure was decided by Facilities Services due to air intakes and possible problems for both people and facilities. Evacuation determinations are made by the county. Non-Corvallis entities can make their own decisions based on local circumstances.
- We need a better way to track who is working on campus or working remotely. Supervisors need to be aware.
- Covid and air quality are “invisible” threats, making response different than other emergencies. How do we address the perception of a threat when planning for emergencies?
- EH&S is looking at some different air sampling equipment. OSU needs to use the Air Quality Index as our trigger for response.
- Will continue see wildfires and smoke on and off in the future. Have not seen this level of air quality in the past. OSU needs to prepare to respond to fires and/or smoke incidents.
- Mark Becker gives a class on emergency preparedness kits via Zoom, and can provide the class on request. Information is also available on the Emergency Preparedness website. A reminder in OSU Today would be good (is scheduled for November). Different emergency preparedness topics are sent out/published in OSU today each month; all documents are available on the Emergency Management website.

5.2. Pandemic and Resumption

- The Library has reopened.
- Testing results from new students (at move-in) are being published.
- Fall and winter are particularly dangerous for Covid due to schools being back in session (students trading germs); people spending more time indoors; symptoms of Covid and cold/flu are similar; fatigue and depression (attitude) from long-term pandemic.
- Resilience is important, self-care is necessary.
- Essential workers are doing lots of extra work, and receiving no extra support from the university. University should show appreciation to those who have had boots on the ground throughout the pandemic.
- Allowing animals in offices would be nice, and good for workers’ mental health.

6. Safety Training: Upcoming/ Planned/ Updates

6.1 Submit upcoming/completed training information/records to Kay for recordkeeping

6.2 In September, Environmental Health and Safety recorded the following trainings, which involved 88 departments:

September 2020	Course
20	Bloodborne pathogens/laboratory biosafety
6	Bloodborne pathogens for non-lab workers
6	Bloodborne pathogen awareness
4	Bloodborne pathogen overview
6	Biosafety cabinets
1	NIH guidelines
42	Infection control
23	Hazardous waste
4	Hazardous materials shipping awareness
17	Universal waste handling
9	Autoclave safety
14	Lab hazard awareness for non-lab workers
9	Formaldehyde safety
179	General laboratory safety
1	Controlled substances
10	Fume hood safety
4	Liquid nitrogen safety
23	Animal handler safety
7	Noise and hearing conservation
6	Respirator training/fit test (includes one PAPR respirator)
4	Acknowledgement of safety rules and emergency procedures
1	Asbestos awareness
1	Back safety and injury prevention
1	Behavior-based safety program
17	Compressed gas cylinder safety
59	Cold, flu & transmissible illness prevention
3	Confined spaces
94	Covid awareness
57	Covid-19 masks, coverings and respirators
4	Electrical safety
1	Excavating, trenching and shoring
12	Eyewash and emergency showers
1	Fall protection
5	Field research safety
52	Fire extinguishers
44	Flu season
3	Forklift
70	Hand washing
26	Globally harmonized system/Hazcomm/SDS
1	Golf cart/utility vehicle
0	Hand and power tools
0	Hearing protection awareness
1	Incident investigation
1	Industrial ergonomics overview
4	Ladder safety
2	Lead awareness

5	Lock-out/tag-out
4	Machine guarding
13	Office and general safety
117	Pandemic – slowing the spread
2	Respiratory protection overview
2	Scaffold safety
4	Silica hazards overview
1	Stormwater management program
1	Wastewater management program
0	Nuclear gauge training
2	Isotope user refresher
0	Laser safety
0	Sealed radiation source training or refresher

7. Agenda Item(s) for Next Meeting

7.1 Open for Suggestions

Next Meeting Date / Venue: 2:30 pm October 28, 2020 / Zoom

Adjourned at 4:10 pm