

**CHEMICAL HYGIENE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 16, 2016**

*Attendees:*

Kathy Pierson, CSUSB EHS  
Benjamin Virzi, CSUSB EHS  
Michael Nguyen, CSUSB EHS  
Lisa Anderson, Biology  
Tom Benson, Biology

*Absent:*

Ken Makino, Chemistry  
Jose Salazar, Chemistry

**Time Started: 9:35 AM**

**Time Ended: 10:30 AM**

**Notes Taken By: Michael Nguyen**

**A) Proposed changing of the Committee name**

Tom proposed changing the name to a different name which would better represent the myriad safety issues dealt with in Biology, Chemistry, and Psychology research departments. A suggestion was made to change the name to "Science Safety Committee" (a name which has been used in the past). The name change was unanimously approved by the attendees and will take effect with the next Committee meeting.

**a) GHS labeling now required on all hazardous materials**

By June 1, 2016, **all** containers holding virgin chemicals must have GHS-compliant labels, including GHS pictograms, hazard statements, precautionary statements, etc. Michael talked to a specialist at Cal-OSHA Consultation in San Bernardino; the specialist stated that there is no such thing as "grandfathering" of chemicals (i.e. all chemicals must be GHS compliant, even if it has a manufacturer label that precedes GHS). EHS will still make the "generic" Flammable, Corrosive, Oxidizer, and Health Hazard GHS labels available to those who would like them. Alternatively, users may utilize the free GHS label-making program hosted by Avery ([www.avery.com/ghs](http://www.avery.com/ghs)). Special GHS label stock (chemical-resistant labels) is available from EHS.

**b) Labeling of *de minimis* chemicals**

Several months ago, a Chemistry instructor inquired if there was such a thing as a *de minimis* quantity for chemical labeling. (i.e. Is there a quantity of chemical below which the owner does

not have to label?) Per the Cal-OSHA consultant, there is **no** provision for *de minimis* quantities in California Code of Regulations (CCR).

To meet the labeling requirement, the owner of the chemicals may resort to “out of the box” solutions such as labeling a Ziploc bag with the contents, tying a laminated label around the neck of a bottle (“luggage tag”), etc.

### **c) Subscription service for Safety Data Sheets (SDS’s)**

The Chancellor’s Office still maintains a subscription to VelocityEHS (formerly MSDSONline). These Safety Data Sheets are available to anyone who has the login credentials. Michael does not currently have the credentials, but he will share them with the Committee once he gets them.

As the SDS’s are a part of the GHS initiative, all departments on campus who have chemicals must also have SDS’s as of June 1, 2016. MSDS’s will no longer be considered an acceptable form of hazard communication per CCR.

## **2) GHS Training**

As of December 1, 2013, every employer must train **all** employees (including paid student workers) who handle chemicals as part of their normal work duties. There are still a number of employees in Biology and Chemistry departments who have not attended GHS training. Michael will continue to host GHS training at least once a month. All EHS-hosted training sessions (GHS, Lab Safety, New Employee Safety Training) will be available for registration on the CSUSB Human Resources website ([www.hr.csusb.edu](http://www.hr.csusb.edu)).

## **3) Accidents and “Near-Miss” Incidents in the Lab**

### **a) Nitric acid spray on student’s chest**

In the process of withdrawing acid from a bottle using a plastic pipette, a student in a Chemistry lab sprayed sulfuric acid on her (exposed) upper chest. The accident was determined to be a result of poor handling practice (holding the pipet horizontally and too high). Wearing the proper PPE could have also prevented dermal exposure.

### **b) Cut from handling broken glass**

In the process of washing lab wares in the sink, a student in a Chemistry lab cut her finger on some broken glass. This incident is still being investigated, as the description regarding the incident as reported on the “STD 268” (student injury) form is a bit vague.

### **c) Hydrochloric acid spill on student's face**

A student in a Chemistry lab dropped a test tube full of 6M hydrochloric acid, causing the acid to splash on her face. She immediately notified the lab instructor, who instructed her to use the eyewash to rinse her face. Because the student was wearing safety goggles, she avoided getting the acid into her eyes. The student did not require medical attention.

### **4) Personal Protective Equipment**

After a successful campaign, EHS is finally winding down the distribution of lab coats and safety goggles to Science faculty and researchers. The last batches of coats and goggles are being distributed. Please contact Michael for an update if you have ordered PPE and have not yet received your item(s).

### **5) CUPA Inspection – February 2016**

The CUPA inspector highlighted the following as major issues:

#### **a) Hazardous waste management – CS-136/137**

The inspector found excessive amounts of hazardous waste being stored in the Chemistry stockroom (CS-232). Please ensure that waste is moved from CS-232 to CS-136/137 on a regular basis to avoid exceeding the 55-gallon holding maximum in CS-232.

#### **b) Labeling of waste: Generation dates**

The inspector found that hazardous waste containers were missing generation dates (i.e. date of first use of the container). Please make sure the generation date is noted on every waste container.

#### **c) Provision of secondary containment for waste containers**

The inspector noted a lack of secondary containment for the hazardous-waste containers. Benjamin will provide at least one plastic tray for every lab fume hood to be used as secondary containment for a waste container. (As before, the storage of hazardous waste in the fume hood should only be done on a transitory basis.)

### **6) Hazardous Waste pickup dates**

Benjamin has confirmed the hazardous waste pickup dates for the rest of 2016. These dates are: March 24, June 23, September 7, and December 19.

## **7) Fire Life Safety issues**

### **a) Study tables in Biological Sciences – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors**

There are two study tables in the corridors leading from the connection to Chemical Sciences, specifically in the alcoves where the corridors make a 90-degree turn (*see attached maps*). The table on the third floor is generally not an issue, as it is a relatively small table which fits completely within the alcove. The second-floor table, however, is much larger and Michael has found that students routinely pull the table out into the corridor to better utilize the space. The presence of the table and chairs in the corridor may impede emergency egress from the adjacent conference room (BI-202). The Deputy State Fire Marshal has permitted the tables to remain in the corridors as long as the maximum number of chairs is not exceeded (3 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and 2 for the 3<sup>rd</sup>) and the tables remain in the alcoves. Signage was placed on both tables last fall; however, Michael discovered that the signage was taken off of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor table two weeks later. EHS will re-install signage and will apply tape around the perimeter of the alcove to alert students to these conditions.

## **8) Disposal of biohazard waste**

This item was added by Michael in response to various faculty members asking EHS regarding the disposal of unusual items (typically of a biohazard nature). None of the committee members had anything to contribute to this topic. Michael re-iterated the availability of EHS to answer any questions regarding the disposal of biohazard waste (or any waste, for that matter).

## **9) Inclusion of other Science departments**

In the future, EHS would like to invite members from other departments to join the Science Safety Committee. These departments include, but are not limited to, Psychology research, Geological Sciences, Health Science and Human Ecology (and in particular HSCI 120 and Environmental Health Science), Physics, and Nursing.

\*\*\* END \*\*\*