

Safety Committee minutes: Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Attendees: Kay McClure-Kelly, Rhae Drijber, Cheryl Dunn, Betsy Howe, Aldi Airori, TJ McAndrew, Greg Puckett, Christian Stephenson, Elizabeth Bardot, Rebecca Cederberg, Nathan Palmer, Ezequiel Vilamil

1) Introduction of new committee members and overview of Committee.

New members, as well as existing members, introduced themselves as the committee currently has 6 new members. Mike welcomed all and hoped that as a committee we would continue to serve the Department as a resource for all personnel.

2) EHS Listserv topics, seeing and recognizing hazards in work area-Betsy Howe

Betsy provided the group with a handout providing insight on various ways to recognize hazards both singularly and within a group setting. The reference provided steps to follow after the recognition of the immediate hazard and prioritizing the consequence of the risk.

3) Road and field safety during harvest season conversations-Mike Livingston

Mike indicated he would send out a short safety message to the Department to highlighting seasonal items which were discussed. This is to include general driving and roadway safety during the harvest season and harvest equipment safety. TJ indicated with increased harvest activity the local deer population is also more frequently seen on the roadways as their normal routines are disrupted.

4) Coursework including a laboratory component and EHS online resources-Rebecca Cederberg

Rebecca provided safety training resources which are available for classes that include a laboratory section. She provided both UNL EHS resources and external resources. These resources could be incorporated into new and existing classes to provide students to enhance their understanding of general research and increase safety measures in these settings. Please see attached document for further information.

5) Building safety and situational awareness- Cheryl Dunn

Cheryl discussed the importance of situational awareness in the classroom and providing students with information on what steps should be taken in different hazard situations. She indicated personnel should be aware of the latest incidents that occurred on city campus and ensure valuables are out of sight, locked up, or behind closed doors.

6) Worker protection Standard (WPS) Training overview – Greg Puckett

Greg provided the committee with a presentation on Worker Protection Standard (WPS) training. This training is required for many individuals who work in both field and greenhouse settings. To view the presentation and learn additional information on who should take this training please see the attached document. To complete the training please see the link below.

[.https://campus.extension.org/login/index.php](https://campus.extension.org/login/index.php)

7) De-escalation class training by UNLPD for staff and students Achampion3@

Mike indicated that after speaking with UNLPD officer Champion that he was made aware of new training provided UNLPD that entailed deescalating situations that could potentially be encountered by students, faculty, or staff. Mike will schedule this in early December, and he hopes to provide a mix of this training concurrent with the situational awareness presentation.

8) Lab resource Virtual Manual <https://scsapps.unl.edu/VirtualManual/ProfileContents.aspx>

The virtual manual is being adapted into more laboratories as a means of receiving new and updated SOP information and providing concise information on the training requirements one should employ while carrying out specific protocols, using certain equipment and carrying out specific job functions.

9) New business

Mike inquired about the upcoming Keim Hall laboratory audits and what items might be addressed this year. Rebecca indicated that a new regulatory item which included exhaust fume hoods doors being closed when not in use. This new issue would be brought to the attention of laboratory occupants. She also mentioned that lab personnel should label and date disinfectants. A new SOP referencing certain compressed gases employed in laboratories is also available.

10) Next Meeting time: December 13, 2:00 pm, 279M Plant Sciences Hall

Note: These are not verbatim minutes. They are a summary of the discussions at the Safety Committee meeting and as corrected by those participating.