

## Safety Committee Minutes: Wednesday, June 5, 2024

Attendees: Kay McClure, TJ McAndrew, Aldi Airori, Elizabeth Bardot, Nate Palmer, Chery Dunn, Kyle Broderick, Mike Livingston

- 1) Overview of EHS Listserv topics and vector borne insect disease. -Betsy Howe

Betsy was unable to attend the meeting, but a brief discussion was had on bird flu and recognizing the potential of those individuals who work with cattle should be aware of the emerging issue.

- 2) Upcoming trainings: Field Safety and lab safety -Mike Livingston

Mike indicated that next week a field safety training would be held in 150 Keim on Thursday 6/15 at 9:00 and additional lab safety training would be held the following week.

- 3) Generation of chemical waste, labelling, storage, and disposal. EHS SOP

This was addressed in our short safety message to the Department on 6/6/24 with resources and contacts within the University and the Department for the proper labelling, handling and disposal of used chemicals. A reminder for current and new employees to ensure all are aware of proper protocols.

- 4) Chemical storage room PLSH, flammable storage, and accessibility.

The chemical storage room in Plant Sciences Hall is intended for those individuals who need flammable storage space or additional capacity of flammable items to ensure quantities of these items are stored properly. Additionally mentioned were the receptacles available in the loading dock area for the disposal of aerosol cans, batteries, broken glass and fluorescent bulbs.

- 5) Tornado Alertus- Update

Mike gave an update on the abbreviated tornado Alertus message that occurred on April 26. This issue was brought up at the Chancellors University Safety Committee meeting and was addressed by Captain Fehringer of UNLPD and he indicated this was a glitch in newer Alertus messaging system and has since been rectified. Additionally, Mike updated the Department on 6/6 to alert new personnel that on the first Wednesday of each month a test of the tornado system is performed at 10:15 AM.

- 6) Heat Stress, injury, and messaging.

Mike shared that the Department did not have any accidents in the past year and hopes that a continued emphasis will be made on messaging during the field season as heat injury is one of our most common issues. He hopes that this trend continues and that safety continues to be a priority.

- 7) Worker Protection Standard training. Required for those working in the field or greenhouse where pesticides are applied.

<https://campus.extension.org/login/index.php>

<https://ard.unl.edu/greenhouses/worker-protection-standards-training/>

8) New business

Kyle B. inquired about the definition and clarification of what constituted a near miss. Nathan Palmer shared an incident involving an electrical issue that occurred with a -80 freezer and wanted to share the importance of inspecting electrical cords and investigating “odd” odors.

9) Next Meeting time

August 14, 2:00 PM 279M PLSH

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