

To accompany minutes of August, 1985

UBC'S OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

PHONE NUMBERS AND AREAS OF REPRESENTATION

	Dr. G. Bates	2834	Chemistry
*	Mr. E. de Bruijn	4555	Library
*	Mr. T Derouin	4185	IUOE 882
	Dr. J.B. Farmer	3296	Chemistry
*	Dr D.J. Farquhar	228-7011	Student Health
*	Ms M. Flores	2811	Housing
*	Mr. D.R. Haller	5543	Physical Plant
	Mr. D. Harper	4654	CUPE 2278/TAU
*	Mr. R.L. Henkelman	3419	CUPE 116
*	Dr. J.B. Hudson	4621	Biohazards
*	Ms E. Lebitschnig	3350	CUE
*	Dr. D. McAdam	2459	Mech. Eng.
*	Dr. R.T. Morrison	228-8373	Radio-Isotopes
*	Mr. D. Napier	3419	CUPE 116
	Mrs. E. Orne	2860	AAPS
	Miss K. Shaw	5478	CUE
	Mr. G. Sloan	6522	CUPE 116
	Dr. F.J.R. Taylor	4587	Diving

OBSERVERS:

*	Assistant-Chief S. Affleck	224-5415	Fire Department
	Mr. R. Black	228-7644	Health Sciences Ctr.
	Dr. W. Greene	4218	O.H.&S.O.

GUEST AT AUGUST MEETING:

Mr. T. Herbert	5811	Personnel Services
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* Indicates absence at last meeting

MINUTES OF THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE HELD AUGUST 27, 1985, AT 10:30 A.M. IN THE BOARD AND SENATE ROOM

After Dr. Greene called the meeting to order, Mr. Herbert introduced the committee members present.

1. Introduction to W.C.B. Regulations (Sections 4 & 6)

Mr. Herbert distributed copies of the Workers' Compensation Board's Industrial Health and Safety Regulations to those present. Separate copies of Sections 4 and 6 were prepared.

- + Copies of Sections 4 & 6 will accompany the minutes of those not present at the meeting. He pointed out that Sections 4 & 6 were relative to our function at UBC. Under Section 4 it was noted that UBC has a 2 tier structure of committees. This Occupational Health and Safety committee represents the campus. There are Departmental/Area/Building committees which represent smaller areas. Each is to foster an attitude of safe work and safe procedures.

Section 6 deals with accident investigations. This will be stressed more in future months.

Mr. Herbert said that the Occupational Health and Safety Office is draughting a form which committees are to use in preparing their investigations. The questions are designed to gather complete information but not to repeat WCB's Form 7's. When the questionnaire is completed after an accident, one copy will be kept in the D/A/B committee's file and two will be sent to Dr. Greene. He will review them and, depending upon the severity, will choose those to be forwarded to WCB.

A draught of this form is being prepared. Copies of it will be sent to committee members and chairpersons of the D/A/B committees. Comments are to be forwarded to Dr. Greene.

2. Occupational Health & Safety Organization

By use of the over-head projector, Mr. Herbert outlined the structure of the new committee in relationship to the campus.

- + (Copies of his diagram will be attached to the minutes.)

He stressed that safety begins with the employee. Safety problems at that level should be referred to the supervisor for investigation, then onto the department head and D/A/B committee as the need arises before forwarding it to the OHS office. The OHS director, Dr. Greene, serves as a resource person for everyone on campus.

3. W.C.B. Statistics

Mr. Herbert presented the Accident and Industrial Disease reports for June and July of 1985. He told us that the costs under "Comparison of worker days lost" were supplied by WCB. Those figures provided under "Average cost per claim" were from UBC. He reminded us that although there are fewer accidents being reported this year, those accidents are more serious in nature. He added that claims involving pensions were not registered in these sums. Because the reports were given in statistics and averages, some information became lost in generalizations.

When Dr. Bates inquired about the line of authority toward cleaning staff in labs and dangerous work areas, Dr. Greene replied that the person in charge of the lab was responsible to ensure that all who entered were to be suitably clad, protected from particular dangers and trained in handling the material there. Mr. Herbert instructed Dr. Bates to contact Mr. Trewin to ensure the cleaning staff was properly trained and attired.

Mr. Harper again urged Mr. Herbert to list accidents by location. It was pointed out that even the Form 7's do not provide space for locations. Knowing an accident involved someone from a certain department does not reflect the location. At present there is no way of monitoring which places have higher accident ratings.

+ This will be considered for subsequent reports.

4. Director's Report

Dr. Greene began his report by announcing that a course on the transportation of dangerous goods was presented by Wally Lohvinen from The CP Express and Transport. The 20 people who attended were taught to recognize labels and placards for hazardous material.

Because the University is under orders regarding the disposal of chemical wastes, Dr. Greene and representatives from Physical Plant visited a waste disposal site in Surrey. UBC would like to build a covered and protected facility which would encompass sorting, repackaging of items which cannot be disposed of on campus, and for neutralizing acids and bases, plus meet the requirements of WCB and the Ministry of the Environment. An initial proposal has been submitted to the Vice-President's office for financing. At the present time we may continue our procedures with solvents, but we are under orders to not process chemicals nor neutralize acids.

Late Friday evening of August 16th, xylene was spilled in the Herbarium. Dr. Greene and Dr. Farmer were among those who cleaned up the spill. No one seemed to know how it occurred. The person in charge was out of the country as was the assistant. The situation was further complicated because no one was indicated for follow up.

Over the years material has dissolved and crystalized in the soil beneath the Chemistry building. Dr. Farmer's committee has been asked for assistance in identifying the chemicals. He added that there is also an asbestos problem. On August 16th Dr. Greene closed off the sub-basement of Chemistry and made it a restricted area.

Beginning Thursday, September 26th, at 12:30 Dr. Greene will hold hour-long seminars covering a variety of topics in IRC 3. These meetings will be held on the fourth Thursday of each month. All interested people may attend. Improved communications between committees is one goal. Dr. Greene welcomed input from this committee.

Miss Shaw and Mr. Harper said the seminars conflicted with their scheduled Unions' meetings.

The Baker Chemical Company's course has been re-scheduled to October 3rd + 4th. The committee debated whether it would be advantageous to have some UBC people trained to teach the course here. Mr. Herbert suggested that we could invite the Baker Company to hold classes on campus.

Dr. Bates told Dr. Greene that there is a growing back log of chemicals awaiting transportation. He added that the hazard is increased as they are being stored in a high traffic area. Dr. Greene responded that Dr. Farmer's committee is compiling an inventory to determine what steps are necessary in dealing with this. He reminded us that one function of the new facility will be the correct storage of such chemicals.

5. Election of Officers

Because the attendance at the meeting was poor, Dr. Greene thought it was inappropriate to hold an election. It will be re-scheduled for next month. In the meantime:

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- + Each committee member is to write a 3 sentence paragraph regarding her/his knowledge and expertise for serving on the committee. This information is to be sent to Dr. Greene's office during the first week in September.

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His address is:

Room 209
Old Administration Building

Because Dr. Bates stated that it would be valuable "to have the sides identified", Union affiliation and other such information will be provided.

6. D/A/B Committee minutes

When Dr. Bates inquired whether this committee reviewed the minutes submitted by the campus committees, he was told this was not done. In the past, Mr. Grant would periodically bring up items which were of interest across campus. Mr. Herbert said it was up to Dr. Greene and WCB to monitor the minutes. Miss Shaw pointed out that previously the secretary and chairperson reviewed them. When she asked if they were confidential, Dr. Greene replied that committee members could have access to them.

- + Dr. Greene said he would start a notebook of notable topics.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, September 24, 1985, Board and Senate Room, at 11:00 AM

