

To accompany minutes of December, 1985

UBC'S OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

PHONE NUMBERS AND AREAS OF REPRESENTATION

CHAIRMAN

Dr. J.B. Farmer

3296

Chemical Safety

SECRETARY

Miss K. Shaw

5478

CUE

Mr. M. Barnes

4283

CUPE 116

Dr. G. Bates

2834

Faculty Association

R Mr. E. de Bruijn

4555

Library/Academic
Services

R Mr. P. Buchannon

5778

AAPS

Mr. T. Derouin

4185

IUOE 882

Dr D.J. Farquhar

228-7011

Student Health

Ms M. Flores

5778

Housing

Mr. D.R. Haller

5543

Physical Plant

* Mr. D. Harper

4654

CUPE 2278/TAU

Dr. J.B. Hudson

4621

Biohazards

Ms E. Lebitschnig

2069

CUE

Dr. D. McAdam

2459

Faculty Association

* Dr. R.T. Morrison

228-8373

Radio-Isotopes

Mr. D. Napier

3419

CUPE 116

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.

GUESTS:

Mr. Olaf Knezevic

WCB

* Indicates absence

R indicates absence with regrets

MINUTES OF THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE HELD DECEMBER 17, 1985, AT 10:30 A.M. IN THE BUCHANAN PENTHOUSE

Dr. Farmer relayed the regrets of Mr. de Bruijn and Mr. Buchannon.

Adoption of the minutes

3 amendments to note are:

page 4 under Safety glasses, Faculty of Science be changed to Dept. of Chemistry.

page 4. The first sentence in Director's report should read: Dr. Greene reported that he attended a successful 3 week-long WCB course in Oct. & Nov. for which he received a diploma.

page 5, last paragraph of the Director's report. The first sentence should read: Dr. Bates referred to a mercury spill detector located in the hospital and stated that it was difficult to find who to contact during an emergency involving a mercury spill.

Mr. Haller moved, seconded by Mr. Napier, that the minutes be adopted as amended. Passed.

A. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Accident Investigation Forms

Dr. Greene explained that the accident investigation forms were necessary to meet the requirements of WCB's Section 6. Further, they would ensure that an investigation was ~~done~~ and were vital for follow up. He stressed that they are not intended to intimidate, interrogate or threaten anyone.

He distributed copies of the 1056 form (accident report forms for students and visitors) and invited input from the members.

Suggestions concerning the forms were:

- a. Incorporate portions of the 1056 form into the new form.
- b. This form would be useful when no specific building or department was involved in an accident. (i.e. slipping in the parking lot)
- c. State what is meant by "unsafe conditions, acts or procedures".
Rework that question in a less threatening way.
- d. Have more general questions at the beginning.
- e. Make all questions less threatening.
- f. Have details at the end.
- g. Use "yes" or "no" for questions involving the use of safety equipment instead of expecting a long, detailed answer.
- h. State who should be conducting the investigation.
- i. Provide spaces for the following:
 - information regarding fire or explosions.
 - the severity of the accident/injury.
 - investigators' names.
 - recommendations for safety training.
- j. Put additional information on the back.

+ Dr. Greene will contact Mr. Black about the Health Sciences Centre's form and ask about the legal implications questioned at an earlier meeting.

When Dr. Greene suggested that a sub-committee be set up to investigate the forms, Mr. Napier, Mr. Derouin, Dr. Bates and Dr. Farquhar volunteered. They were charged to advise the Director on the Accident Investigation Forms through this committee and report back.

2. Eye Wash Replacement

Mr. Haller told the committee that he was waiting for parts for the eye wash in Chemistry. When Dr. Bates pointed out that Chemistry had been + waiting for over a year for its return, Mr. Haller agreed that the wait was too long and said he would re-investigate.

When Mr. Napier recommended that a new eye wash be installed, Dr. Bates replied that this was a special hand-held shower type for which they had been granted a variance.

The item will remain on the agenda.

3. Safety Glasses

From a discussion with Levitz, Dr. Greene reported they have safety glasses that have side vents, are fog free, able to fit over glasses, splash and impact proof and are inexpensive if bought in quantity. They are not available in prescription. There would be no problem if departments wanted to order them through Purchasing.

Dr. Bates inquired if they were to be paid for at the department level. Dr. Greene stated that he needs an estimate of how many pairs were needed per year.

+ The committee asked Dr. Greene to find out prices from Imperial Optical and make the information available to workers.

Mr. Knezevic informed us that polycarbonate glasses do not have much distortion. Because they are softer than plexiglass they may scratch more easily. Workers should consult data sheets when working around solvents. Some solvents will cause the glasses to become brittle and lose resistance.

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. Director's Report

The written form of this report is attached at the back of the minutes.

2. Accident and Industrial Disease Report

After the committee members studied this report they asked that the following be added :

- a. the frequency of accidents instead of just numbers.
- b. more information about accidents involving Physical Plant workers.

Deleted:

areas that show "zero" across the page.

Where people return to work after filling out claims, there is no entry for "Wage loss by time". This accounts for seeming conflicts in totals.

Mr. Knezevic was encouraged to know that the reports were reviewed so carefully.

3. No Smoking Policy

Ms Flores passed out copies of UBC's smoking policy then inquired if we should be following the recently changed municipal by-laws. After a brief discussion, Ms Lebitschnig, Ms Flores, Dr. Farquhar and Mr. Haller volunteered to form a sub-committee to investigate the campus smoking policy.

C. OTHER BUSINESS

1. WCB Course

Dr. Greene confirmed that he made arrangements for Ms Flores and Mr. Napier to attend the WCB course in February.

2. Vandalism

Ms Lebitschnig outlined vandalism at the War Memorial Gym. She understood that Physical Plant was responsible for clean up but questioned who was responsible for patrolling. Ms Flores explained that the Alma Mater Society was responsible for security at their events and recommended that they be made aware of the problem. Others added that if these incidents were AMS related, that society should be responsible for the clean up. If this was not the case, the source should be found.

Dr. McAdam recommended that more lights be installed around the gym.

Adjournment

Mr. Napier moved, seconded by Dr. Bates, that this portion of the meeting be adjourned and resumed elsewhere to view Housing's video on Fire Safety. Passed

The committee was delightfully impressed with the quality of all aspects of the video. Our compliments and thanks to those who prepared it.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, January 28, at 10:30, in the Board and Senate Room.

J. B. Farmer
Dr. J. B. Farmer (Chairman)

K. Shaw
K. Shaw (Secretary)

Director's Report to the University Health and Safety Committee
December 17, 1985

1. Chemistry Department's Inspection by W.C.B.

Last month the Committee was given a copy of the W.C.B. Report concerning an inspection of the third and fourth floors of the Chemistry Department. The Chemistry Department has been busy reviewing this report and taking corrective actions. The Director has met with the Chemistry Safety Committee and with Dr. Weiler, Mr. Rooney and Dr. Money. The Chemistry Department will be submitting a compliance report to the W.C.B. and will take corrective actions and present a schedule of expected completion dates. The Department is to be commended on its swift action concerning the report.

2. Solvent Waste Containers

The Director has recently met with Assistant Chief Stu Affleck and Pat Byrne of the W.C.B. to discuss suitable containers of 5 litre size which would meet the requirements of researchers and at the same time satisfy fire safety requirements. The various sizes/shaped containers are being collected and will be used to evaluate the overall effectiveness and the difficulty of use of these containers. Many UBC users could make use of the 5 litre containers, these containers would substantially reduce the volume of material stored in laboratories and would also encourage a more rapid turnover of containers. At the present time many of the 5 gallon containers remain in laboratories for weeks and months on end.

3. Radiation Safety Course

During the week of Dec. 9 the Radiation Protection Office of Occupational Health and Safety carried out its third one week course. This course is presented for five one half days. The first three days deal with radiation protection, decontamination and general safety associated with the use of radioactivity. The fourth and fifth mornings are used to develop techniques in the use of liquid scintillation counting. Students on the course are expected to complete an examination and upon successful completion are allowed to use radioactivity in UBC laboratories.

4. Dr. Postma's lecture OH MY ACHING BACK

Dr. Postma is director of the Back Evaluation and Education program of the Workers' Compensation Board. His talk was well attended and well presented. He pointed out that for workers who were off for six months because of back injury 50% would never return to work. Workers who were off for one year only 20% would ever work again. The Workers' Compensation Board program has met some success in getting workers back into the work force. Dr. Potsma pointed out that in 1984 the

Compensation Board paid out \$40,000,000 in back related injury claims and he added to this there would be a further \$10,000,000 for medical expenses. Back injuries are a major concern in the workplace.

5. Bamfield Marine Station Visit

On December 12 and 13 the Director and the University Diving Officer, Dr. Bob Sparks visited the Bamfield Marine Station to review their program and visit the site where most of the scientific diving of UBC faculty and students is carried out. This visit was very productive.

6. Accident in Chemistry Teaching Lab

On November 13 a student spilled 16 M nitric acid on fingers and forearm when pouring acid. The injured area was washed and the student taken to emergency. The Chemistry Department has initiated procedural changes. In the future the process will be carried out in the fume hood and test tubes will be held in a test tube holder.

7. Mouth Pipetting

The Director was asked if he would make a presentation to the Workers' Compensation Board for to be allowed to use mouth pipetting in teaching laboratories. The Workers' Compensation Board requirement on mouth pipetting is the following:

"Pipetting substances by mouth is prohibited. A bulb pipette or an aspirator should be used."

The Director strongly endorses the Workers' Compensation Board position on mouth pipetting. Mouth pipetting is unhygiene in the general sense and must not be used or encouraged.

8. Biohazard Committee Visit to Shaughnessy Research Centre

On December 16 the University Biohazards Committee visited the Shaughnessy Research Centre to view the new D-Level Suite of laboratories. This is the first D-Level Suite in British Columbia. This visit was part of the requirements in order to carry out certification of the facilities. Shaughnessy Research Centre is now developing operational procedures.

9. Light Level Measurements

The Director has carried out two inspections of light levels (illumination) in work areas. Some problems were found and remedial actions suggested.

MWG/sn

SEE
REVERSE
SIDE
FOR
EXPLANATION

ACCIDENT LOCATION: (specify)

ACCIDENT
CATEGORY

(Check
Appropriate Box)

☐

Injury
or
Illness

☐

Equipment
Malfunction

☐

Property
Damage

☐

Fire

☐

Other

Please specify:

NAME & DEPARTMENT OF WITNESSES:

DETAILS OF ACCIDENT: (see reverse)

CORRECTIVE ACTION:

Signature of Immediate Supervisor/Dept. Head

SAFETY OFFICER'S COMMENTS:

DISTRIBUTION:

Original to Supervisor
Copy to Safety Officer

EXPLANATION OF THIS FORM:

PURPOSE: This form has been designed to supplement W.C.B. Form 7. The information on this form is not intended to duplicate information on the W.C.B. Form 7.

The intent of this form is to provide useful information relating to the incident; such as:

- " - a statement of sequence of events which preceded the accident, and;
- identification of any unsafe conditions, acts or procedures which contributed in any manner to the accident and;
- recommended corrective actions to prevent similar accidents."
(Source W.C.B. Industrial Health & Safety Regulations 1980)

These forms will also allow us to compile comprehensive and mechanical statistics for Departmental and Administrative use.