

CSUSB SCIENCE SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
MEETING MINUTES
January 18, 2018

Attendees:

Ken Makino, *Stockroom Manager, Chemistry and Biochemistry*

Teresa Fricke, *Director, Environmental Health and Safety*

Michael Nguyen, *Specialist, Environmental Health and Safety*

Benjamin Virzi, *Specialist, Environmental Health and Safety*

Time Started: 11:10 AM

Time Ended: 11:45 AM

Minutes recorded by: Michael Nguyen

1. Hazardous Waste Management

- Use of larger waste containers in the laboratories
 - As part of EH&S' efforts to reduce waste in all aspects of waste generation, EH&S would like to encourage Chemistry labs and other high-volume chemical waste generators to utilize 2.5- and/or 5-gallon waste containers wherever possible. These containers will be reused. In the last couple of months, the amount of plastic waste associated with disposing of waste containers has dropped significantly.
 - Exceptions:
 - Organic chemicals: For most organic chemicals, the size limit for storage is 1 gal. of waste in a given plastic container. Therefore, the larger plastic containers cannot be used in organic chemistry labs.
 - Mercury-containing waste: Must continue to use 1-gallon waste containers.

Please contact Benjamin for guidance or questions.

- Microscale
 - Please encourage your instructional laboratories to microscale experiments wherever possible. A good example is the Chemistry lab series at Palm Desert Campus. This not only cuts back on chemical acquisition costs but also on waste disposal fees.

2. Laboratory Safety Audits

A faculty member contacted EH&S asking if CSUSB was targeted by the Chancellor's Office for a lab-safety audit. To EH&S' knowledge, CSUSB is not being targeted for such an audit. However, a few other CSU campuses are under increased scrutiny, following various incidents at those campuses.

3. Accidents and Near-Miss Incidents

ACCIDENTS: No accidents to report.

NEAR-MISS INCIDENTS:

- Gas Cylinder – “Popped” Regulator
 - Late 2017: A Science instructor contacted their Instructional Support Technician, wishing to obtain a suitable regulator for their gas cylinder to be used in the instructional lab they taught. The IST told them that the regulator for that particular cylinder was not readily available. The instructor subsequently took another regulator and screwed it on the gas cylinder. They also used Teflon tape to try to secure the seal. Minutes later, the regulator popped off the gas cylinder toward the ceiling (in the lab). Thankfully, no one was injured.
 - Take-Aways:
 - Please follow the expertise and advice given by your department’s ISTs. This incident could have been easily avoided.
 - Regulators should screw on “just right” (not too loose, not too tight) without needing a tool or Teflon tape – just hand pressure. Refrain from using a regulator which is not suited for the gas cylinder.

4. General Safety Concerns

Over the course of the lab-safety program at CSUSB, EH&S has inspected several instructional-lab sessions where the instructor was not present. In some cases, the instructor habitually left the labs and when asked, students responded that the instructor was just “down the hall.” Constant instructor supervision is crucial to laboratory safety and effective incident management in case of an emergency.

Please continue to encourage instructors to be present in the laboratories for the duration of the lab sessions.

5. New items from the table

No new items were offered from the table.

The next meeting will be scheduled for spring/summer 2018.

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