

Stanley Hall Safety Committee Agenda

11:00 am -12:00 noon, Wednesday, September 9, 2009

Room 177 Stanley Hall

[Safety Committee and DSC Comments in Green]

1. H1N1 Virus (Swine Flu) *Thom Opal 10 min.*

<http://uhs.berkeley.edu/home/news/H1N1.shtml>

<http://www.coughsafe.com/media.html>

<http://www.flu.gov>

Case reported for Stanley employee, but the flu is ubiquitous (according to Dr. Brad Buchman, UHS Medical Director). Vaccine is coming, and it differs from seasonal flu vaccine. Precautions: cover mouth and nose with disposable tissue when coughing/sneezing, wash hands with soap/water (alcohol cleaners okay), don't touch your eyes/nose/mouth, stay home if you are sick. Posters are reminder.

2. Incidents, Concerns, and Corrective Measures *All Attendees; 15 min.*

Fire incident 7/7/09: flame sterilization of metal wire loop; dipped loop into ethanol, and then flame; drop of flaming ethanol fell into adjacent trash can and ignited trash contents; fire extinguished by other lab member. If experiment allows, flame sterilize without ethanol; clear work surface of unnecessary items; Fire Marshal reminder: ethanol vapor is heavier than air, and pools on countertops – cover ethanol container to prevent vapor buildup and subsequent flashback from ignition source to the ethanol container. Important: never bring flaming or smoking materials from lab, out into hallway; corridor is your safe exit area.

Needle stick injury 7/9/09: extra effort needed to remove needle from plastic cassette. Brace cassette flat against bench top when removing needle. Urgent Care: UCB – University Health Services Tang Center; LBNL – LBNL Health Services Building 26; HHMI – US Healthworks Medical Group, 2850 7th St. Suite 100 (see handout)

Cut arm injury 8/20/09: researcher slipped and sliced hand on a chipped vacuum flask. Inspect all glassware, and take chipped/sharp pieces out of service. Also speak with your glassware washers, ask them to use caution with chipped or cracked glassware.

Chiller refrigerant (HCFC-123) releases 8/21 and 8/28.

3. Follow-Up: Lab Chemicals Storage for Earthquake Safety *Thom Opal 5 min.*
Anyone taken tangible actions? What have you done?

4. Respiratory Protection *Thom Opal 5 min.*

Don't buy respirator without EH&S approval – includes dust masks. Contact me to assess needs. Proper fit, medical clearance, correct type of protective device, maintenance of respirator, training. Don't borrow a respirator!

5. Safety Coordinator Announcements *Thom Opal 20 min.*

- New Employee Safety Training: CHP, EH&S New Employee Lab Safety, BEP, IIPP Also – sign up for Warn Me (warnme.berkeley.edu)
- Annual Lab Safety Inspections: EH&S Program 1st Week of November (Lab Coats, Safety Glasses, SOPs, Vacuum Line Traps, Chemical Inventory, Chem Waste); Self-Inspections (including chemical storage for earthquake)
- Sharps Container and Broken Glass Disposal sharps in med waste only; broken glass boxes (sealed): do not fill dumpsters more than halfway with broken glass boxes (Recycling and Refuse Manager's request)
- Lab Coat Vendor Update
- Medical waste disposal recharge coming soon EH&S announced
- Rad Safety Recharge "Subscription" Service: annual fee will cover routine EH&S surveys, package inspection and delivery, dosimetry, disposal, etc. Non-routine services, such as spill assistance, instrument repair, etc. will be billed separately
- Ladder Safety - New Lesson Learned from EH&S:
<http://www.ehs.berkeley.edu/lessonslearned/lessons3.html>
Cal/OSHA levied a \$19,125 fine against a Campus department after investigating a serious injury, resulting from using an unsafe ladder, and falling 3-4'. They were also fined for not having properly-documented safety training on ladder use. A previous serious injury (permanent disability from fall of 3') avoided Cal/OSHA fine of \$18,000, simply by having documented safety training.

6. Agenda Items for Next Meeting (11-12 Wednesday, 12/9/09, room 177) *All Attendees; 5 min.*

Handouts:

- Poster: *WHACK the Flu*
- Poster: *3 Ways to Fight the Flu*
- Chemical Hygiene Plan insert: *Urgent Care for LBNL and HHMI Employees*
- Poster: *Stanley Hall Contacts*
- Fact Sheet: *Respiratory Protection*
- Fact Sheet: *Vacuum System Hazards and Precautions*