

Campus Safety, Health, and Security Committee Agenda

Date: September 19, 2024

Members Attending:

Scott Tomren	Aftab Ahamed
Matt Larson	Kelly Gabel
Tim Larreau	Niamh O’Leary
Tami McDonald	Alex Cohn
Brandon Needham	Jesse Bravo
Tracey Tomaso	Steve Bisch
Chris Tucker	

Guests: None

Agenda Items:

1. Introduction

No changes or corrections were requested to the minutes for July or August.

2. Review of Inspection Reports

No inspection reports were completed since the prior meeting.

3. Review of Accident/Investigation reports

Four accident reports were reviewed, including 3 from WSU Tri-Cities.

First was for an individual who had a seizure on campus. Campus policy for seizures or loss of consciousness is that 911 should be called immediately. It is impossible to predict the duration or severity of a seizure, so it is best to get medical attention on the way as soon as possible. If the person recovers prior to the arrival of an ambulance, no harm is done, and they can still get checked out by professionals at no charge. If it is medically necessary, the person can then be transported for additional treatment.

The second report was from Pullman, describing an incident where a student in a chemistry lab running acid-metal reactions suffered burns to their fingers when the vial overflowed. The student was not wearing gloves. Discussion centered on the need for people in the lab to wear proper PPE, even for simple procedures.

Two reports of lab incidents in Tri-Cities were reviewed, one from an individual being sprayed in the face by a small quantity of acid when a filter syringe failed. Discussion was on experimental design and proper PPE, noting that where acid solutions are used, a different filtration method may be appropriate (this will vary based on the details of the experiment), noting that if a spray/splatter hazard exists then a barrier such as a fume hood sash or face shield must be used.

The second involved another lab where an individual was using a kitchen blender to mix an acid suspension, and the blender shaft & blade failed, causing a cut on the individual’s thumb. Discussion in this incident centered on the need to use proper

equipment, recognizing that standard kitchen equipment is not likely suitable for use with laboratory-grade acids. It is also important to ensure that when procedures are scaled up and processes changed, they must be reviewed to ensure that safe methods and equipment are being used.

a. Discussion on Follow-up & Prevention

Scott told the committee that following incidents involving an injury, WSU requires that a Supervisor's Investigation report must be completed. This should look at the circumstances of the accident and attempt to determine all of the contributing factors, so that similar incidents can be avoided. Where equipment failure is indicated as a cause, the supervisor should consider *why* the equipment failed – was the right kind of equipment being used, and was it being used properly? Or, did the methods employed contribute to the failure? This process is not intended to place blame on individuals, or to be punitive. It is important that it look at the incident carefully and consider all contributing factors.

In order to help identify issues that may exist in labs and other work areas, Scott asked if it may be beneficial to have cross-departmental walkthroughs of various labs – for example, if researchers from Wine Science evaluated labs at BSEL. This would provide fresh eyes in the labs, who were also familiar with research processes and may be able to identify alternative methods and areas for improvement.

4. Issues/Questions/Concerns previously discussed/unresolved

a. Unlevel sidewalks

No new information since last meeting. Uncertain whether estimate for repairs has been received from contractor.

b. Door Locks – electronic access

Electronic locks are being installed at INEF, and should be complete this semester. Replacement of the PIN pad locks on several of the general classrooms and labs are expected to be the next phase.

c. Fire Alarm tests

Fire alarm testing in all buildings will take place in the coming weeks. A message describing expected actions will be sent prior to the tests. Building evacuations are expected to be completed in conjunction with the tests.

5. New Issues/Questions/Concerns

The following new items were discussed:

- Tim –
 - o Floyd 235 has more furniture and less space than anticipated and more than indicated in 25Live as the room capacity. It should be checked to ensure it meets egress requirements.
 - o Cable trays in INEF are poorly constructed and in some areas inaccessible. Working on installations here requires staff to put themselves in positions that appear unsafe.
- Matt –
 - o Potholes in the parking lots need repair. In some areas, they are large enough to cause damage.
 - o Campus directional signage is outdated and needs to be removed or replaced.

- Suggested creating vinyl signage facing building exteriors with information regarding building hours, contact information for access.
- Chris –
 - Port will be conducting fire alarm testing at 3100 George Washington Way
- Aftab –
 - The printer in BSEL was recently moved, which creates a data security concern when items are printed but people must walk down to the printer. Papers can sit there and are visible to anyone. Scott and Tim indicated that this concern should be taken to IT, it is not an item for this committee. Tim also indicated that items can be printed and held in the printer until a code is entered, it is not necessary for them to sit and be visible. BSEL should contact IT.
 - An additional gas cage is needed outside BSEL due to the department's use of a second gas vendor.
 - Researchers need to ensure that procedures are updated to accurately reflect the chemicals being used in procedures, as well as their quantities and any equipment/methods.
- Alex –
 - Advising staff will be attending Threat Assessment Training offered through ESD 123 on October 21-22
- Jesse –
 - Recommended that with winter coming, a pre-emptive message should be sent to campus regarding securing of food and other items that might draw mice
- Brandon –
 - Recommended that with the sun going down earlier through the next few months, campus should be reminded that security is available to provide parking lot escorts as needed

No additional topics, meeting adjourned at 10:50