Developing A Safety Culture in the Laboratory Environment

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Objectives

• Impact of injuries
• Safety at the UO
• Lab specific safety
• How to report hazards
• How to report injuries
• Resources for building safety culture
Impact of Injuries

- Employee impacts
  - Health (physical & mental)
- Financial impacts
  - Direct & indirect costs
- Operational impacts
  - Loss of key personnel
- Cultural impacts
  - Morale

UO Safety - 2018

Total Injuries Reported = 440
Injury claims = 169
Injury claims without missing work = 119
Injury claims with lost work = 50
UO Lab Injuries 2013 - 2018

- Injury Report Only
- Injury Claims

UO Lab Injuries 2013 - 2018

- Laceration
- Chemical Exposure
- Chemical Burn
- Strain/Sprain
- Slip/Trip/Fall
- Strike against/struck by
- Redact bite
- Burn (non-chemical)
- Foreign matter - eye
- Noise exposure
UO Lab Injuries 2013 - 2018

Incident Breakdown
• Total = 54 injury reports
• Average 9 reports/year
• 24 = first aid only
• 30 = medical claim

Safety Culture

Merriam-Webster:
• Set of shared attitudes, values, goals and practices that characterizes an institution or organization

• Culture is how you conduct yourself even when no one is looking.

How would you describe the safety culture in your work area?
Reporting Hazards

- **Imminent Danger:**
  - Ok to intervene directly
  - Or call EHS, UOPD, 911 etc.

- **All Other Hazards:**
  - If qualified, correct hazard
  - If hazard is a “fix it” item, report to CPFm Work Control (6-2319)
  - All other hazards
    1. Report to PI
    2. Use the “Report a Concern” online form for EHS assistance

**Report A Concern**
safety.uoregon.edu
Reporting Injuries and Near Miss Incidents

• Report all injuries
  • Regardless of severity
  • As soon as possible

• Report Near Miss (Close Call) Incidents

• Report to PI
  • Use Workplace Injury Report
  • Send to workinjury@uoregon.edu

A Case Study for Reporting

Don’t limit reporting to just injuries!
• Solvent spill, July 2018
• Toluene & methylene chloride being transported on a cart
• Cart tipped over spilling 3 bottles of toluene & 1 of methylene chloride
• EHS responded to support clean up, install temporary ventilation, ensure proper disposal, and verify safe conditions to reoccupy space
• Follow up included support on cart use
Building a Safety Culture

Internal support:
• Encourage injury reporting
• Encourage hazard reporting
• Demonstrate safe behaviors
• Hold self and others accountable to safe practices

Building a Safety Culture

Internal support:
• Talk about hazards
• Talk about injuries
• Walk the walk
• Set clear expectations
  • Policy/procedures
  • Reporting hazards/injuries
Building A Safety Culture

Setting Expectations:
- Lab safety practices
- Housekeeping
- Chemical handling/storage
- PPE
- Disposal

Building a Safety Culture

Internal support:
- Bring safety into regular communications
  - Staff meetings
  - Weekly emails
  - Newsletters
  - Safety committee
- Use EHS resources!
Building a Safety Culture

Safety Sheets!
safety.uoregon.edu

Lab Specific Topics

CHEMICAL INVENTORY

LABORATORY HAZARD SIGNS

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT - LAB

CHEMICAL FUMES HOODS
General Topics

Building a Safety Culture

EHS Support
- Training
- Hazard assessments
- Ergonomic assessments
- Workplace inspections
Building a Safety Culture

EHS Support
- Consultations
  - Internal Resources
  - External Resources
- Injury/near miss data
  - Safety committees
  - Safety meetings

Wrap up…
EHS wants to partner with you to build your safety culture!
- We are not the “NO” people.
- We are the “Yes… but let’s think about it and come up with a plan first” people!
- We’d love to partner with you to help you meet your goals safely!
QUESTIONS?

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