

Chemical Hygiene Committee Meeting

April 15, 2025

Attendees

Melissa Duke, Dan Anderson, Eric Keeling, Ben Kumler, Evelyn Prater, Mari Almquist, Stacey Fiddler, Paige Gyldersleve, Linda Fergusson-Kolmes, Steve Ballew, Heather Coleman, Spencer Corbin Lawson, Liliya Sobelev

Old business

1. Waste reduction strategies
 - a. Curriculum
Still working to get SY and RC on board with microscale-chemistry
 - b. Inventory Management
Teams are working on disposing old expired chemicals and evaluating ordering practices
Evelyn still owes data on waste generation
To be continued summer project
2. Access Issues for ISTs (Updates?)
 - a. Where do we need keys or badges for ISTs to improve safety?
SE SCOM access to DI water system - Still need the key for the water system
RC 7 first floor access to stairwell in prep area - Melissa's Key now works - Reiterate the request the request for the key Paige
CA Electrical Cabinet to breakers in JH (220? (just down from Spencer's office) - Ben needs one still, Check in with Spencer
3. RC 7 Alarm Issue (Updates?)
ESR storage space - It hasn't been going off as often but the last time was 48 hrs. Will reach out to Heidi Van Brocklin for follow-up.

New Business

1. Fume hood inspections
 - a. SY one of the hoods in the biology space that didn't certify again - FMS previously brought in a third party to look at it - Evelyn will continue to work with FMS to fix it
 - b. CA has been a long running concern - Need the hoods to be operation 80-120 face velocity but have been running very low (80-85) for years. Hoods at the end of the line have the most issues - All of those hoods are connected to one system; one motor - We have identified some bench top extractors in two rooms that are also connected. Evelyn had conversations with FMS about what would be needed to cut them off. It might also be to the point that those fans and motors are aging out. Follow up conversation needed between Linda, Dan, Evelyn and Larry Osborn - May go on the PNCC project list.
 - c. RC hoods; two rooms will be remodeled and construction start Fall 2027 - Julie Yeager Walker point of contact - Design development starting now - Losing labs spring and summer 2026

2. Biological Safety cabinet inspections
 - a. Do they have to be inspected every year? May have to look into the accreditation requirements for each program. Best practice to have them certified annually
3. The safety training for new employees and what it covers and what it does not cover
Part of the new employee onboarding in the current MyCareer@pcc.edu
Foundational overview
Hazard Communication
Portable Fire Extinguisher training
Hazardous Waste Regulation
Have not updated the abbreviated refresher courses for Haz Com and Hazardous waste
Add the Chemical Hygiene training (it will not be automatically assigned)
There was a question for Cheryl and stipends. Deans will contact her directly.

Questions:

Stacey asked about the FDC getting a list of what is covered for new employees.

Evelyn responded - In the environmental Health and Safety Manual, ch 1, there is a checklist which is specific for new employee onboarding (<https://www.pcc.edu/facilities-management/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2023/12/HSM-Ch-1-Form-1-Checklist.pdf>)

4. Annual Training
 - a. In the past Chemistry had site specific trainings – they plan to continue this practice for next year. The deans would like to explore continued opportunities for collaboration between Life Science and Physical Sciences

5. Other

Is there any opportunities for Styrofoam recycling?

-There are a couple of groups around the Portland area

Reach out to Jade Menchaca, recycling coordinator to see if something can be worked out

6. Lab Inspections:

They will happen during the spring term. Hopefully during May

Next meeting October 6 at 2:00 pm