

## Minutes of the ESDR Lab Area Safety Lead Committee 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Meeting

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**Date:** Tuesday, September 10, 2019

**Time:** 10:00am – 11:00am

**Present (20):** Juhyeon Ahn - Judith Alvarado - Helen Bergstrom – Nemanja Danilovic - Chen Fang - Louise Frenck - Yanbao Fu - Xin He - Kenneth Higa - Giselle Jiles – Imran Khan - Douglas Kushner – Grace Lau – Jonathan Lau - Marion Russell - Ron Scholtz - Joseph (*Joey*) Silveira - Eongyu Yi – Yuan Yue - Jian Zhu

**Invited Guest (4):** Michael Carr - Kelley Etherington - Vassiliki (*Vivi*) Fissekidou – Heather Madison

**Location:** Building 70A, Conference Room 3377

Fix small things before they build up into something bigger to prevent something worse from happening...little wins!!

### Opening Announcements:

- The Doctor in Health Services has determined the larger Disaster First Aid Kits should no longer be in the work areas. You can order the replacement “basic” 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Kits from eBay (*Staples Item # 2715732*).
- Big, big push on **chemical safety** here at LBNL per **Ravi Prasher** and **DOE**. **DOE** concerns are time sensitive chemicals labeled, dated, inspecting them by using test strips. All chemicals should have barcodes entered into the CMS system. Incompatibles should not be stored together. Get rid of old or scary looking stuff.
- ETA0015 Training (*hands on class*) new lab safety leads training is available. Please contact Ron if you are interested in this hands-on training.

### Kelley Etherington's Talk:

What are four hazardous properties on a hazardous waste label?

1. Toxic
2. Flammable
3. Corrosive
4. Reactive or

Extra (other): California regulated

When you submit a waste requisition the better the description i.e. percentages, pH level, etc. will help speed up the process. A new more efficient computer system due out next year. SAA walk around look at dates make sure they are within 9-months, and hazardous waste labels are completely filled out. Benchtop treatment plans are now submitted through WPC. Keep a treatment log. Make sure empty glass boxes have containers that are drip-free. Keep an eye on your peroxide formers. The disposal vendor has asked LBNL to open the peroxide performers' containers and test even if never opened. Reactive metal wastes now require a visual inspection by Kelley prior to processing the requisition. Waste technicians are getting a little more meticulous. Technicians look at what they have on their request sheet, (i.e., generator name, waste description, date) and if they don't match with the label they can't pick-up.

Q&A to Kelley...

**Judith Alvarado** – What are the procedures for disposing of electrodes? Put them in a SAA bag and dispose of them as hazardous waste. If in doubt, take a conservative approach and call hazardous waste.

**Helen Bergstrom** - It is very difficult to transfer the “base bath” solution from the 5-gallon bucket into a flam can. It is awkward and the solution is very smelly. Kelley will look into a way we can “overpack” these containers so the waste does not have to be transferred.

### **Share a Safety Story from your area:**

**Marion Russell** – Ionizer bar in the microbalance. Weighing box used for very sensitive weighing of particulate matter collected on filters. Before you can weigh the filters you need to discharge any static electricity on them. They are currently using a source of polonium (ionizer bar) as a fixed source and it will discharge all of the ions on the filter so the balance can make an accurate weigh in. Radioactive source is a lot of paperwork to keep so Marion’s supervisor looked into an alternative method and bought a piece of equipment, which is an ionizing electrostatic machine. An electrician should look at it because it discharges 5,000 volts and the machine did not come with detailed instructions. Machine is still sitting in its original box, afraid to make a mistake. Radiation source, hazard is pretty high, at least the perceived hazard is known and there are lots of controls involved. Get rid of that and go to something that that is less hazardous, less control would make all of our lives easier. That was our noble goal going out into this. Eliminating a hazard is usually the hardest thing to do but something we should always strive for.

**Chen Fang** – Ordered 4 cylinders of Argon gas. They were delivered together, 3 were good, 1 was empty with “new” sticker & new date on them, so we knew they are new. Plastic film sealing on the top of one cylinder was missing, it was totally empty. Possibility someone used it up and did not put it in the empty rack. 2<sup>nd</sup> supplier messed it up, put a new sticker on a totally empty cylinder, and sent it to LBNL. If the issue were overlooked, you would encounter some problems when connecting to a glove box. Check every cylinder received and if you have an empty cylinder place it in the designated empty rack.

**Helen Bergstrom** – Leaky cylinder issue. When unhooking an Argon cylinder, the main valve did not close, and it was leaking out considerably. Took it down to the outdoor dock and chained it inside one of the cages, closed the door, opened the valve and let it slowly purge outside while standing by. Did not want to have a leaky valve and have the issue of the argon displacing air. This was an appropriate way to handle an inert gas leak such as argon, nitrogen, or helium. However, in the event that a hazardous gas such as hydrogen, carbon monoxide, or ammonia were to leak, Ron suggested calling 911, and get the Fire department out, so they can figure out the best response.

**Judith Alvarado** – Experienced a similar incident, but not a leaky valve. Cylinder was full, wrapped, when hooked up it said it had only 800 PSI. She had to deal with the vendor. This was a first time experience for me, but recently it is an issue. I was reimbursed for my team tank and in addition had one that was defective.

**Ron Scholtz** – SLAC uses hydrogen balanced nitrogen in an Argon glove box to do their regeneration process. Allows a higher concentration hydrogen without it being considered a flammable gas. Therefore, they are not counted for having as much flammable gases in their Labs and more easily comply with building-wide flammable gas storage limits. The PIs do not want nitrogen near their glove boxes. Would like to determine if a switch to a different gas for regenerations is feasible? We may have an old glove box in B62 **Helen Bergstrom** is willing to try this out on.

**Nemanja Danilovic** – It appears the empty cylinders do not get picked up regularly in the storage cage. If they get full, let **Joey Silveira** and/or **Ron Scholtz** know.

**Judith Alvarado** – Every group meeting we have a safety minute or we talk about safety in our group meetings. They recently talked about a spilled electrolyte in our glove box that was just covered up with a tray & then it crystalized and so all the residuals solvents were left. I had to clean it up and we went through this whole tutorial if there is a chemical spill, what should you do and this is a little tricky for the glove box because it effects the catalyst. Did a PowerPoint write up, I did not take pictures of the spill or the residual crystals because I was just cleaning it up. Ron asked, does your group do safety discussion in your group meetings? Share your safety alerts.

**Nemanja Danilovic** – Many people walk around the hallways with gloves on and glove coats. Make it more visible that this is not appropriate. Some people open the doors with their gloves on.

**Helen Bergstrom** – Gloves are meant for single use only. In labs, people will take off their gloves and label them with their names. Make it clear gloves are to be used once. **Doug Kushner** – Lab coats are not to be worn in public spaces, i.e., office, restrooms and breakrooms. **Ron Scholtz** - do not hang Lab coats in your office; leave them in the Labs, because you have potential contamination on them. **Yanbao Fu/Chen Fang** – Lab coats are too short (*talk to Kate*). We can also get disposable armguards. Fabric armguards are more comfortable and available through VWR.

**Nemanja Danilovic** – the exit door cracked glass door in Building 70, the cardboard cover is falling off.



**Grace Lau** – In the cage for the gas cylinders in Building 70, chains are not put back and maybe there should be more reminders to put the chains back.

**Louise Frenck** – the tile from the ceiling in the room fell down due to a water leak. If you see something like that, let the Building Manager know.

**Helen Bergstrom** – One specific Lab in Building 62 is being locked continuously but no one that works in that Lab is locking it. How to get that to stop? **Ron Scholtz** suggested talking to Gil about getting a key to keep in your office space. This is almost a good problem, we want to transition to where our Labs do stay locked. Ideally, **Ron Scholtz** would like to see a cardkey on every Lab door.

## Open Action Items:

Date	Action Item	Assigned	Status
12/4/18	It is taking too long to get wastes picked up from the SAA's.	R. Scholtz/ EHS Waste Management	Completed- Make sure all information on requisition is complete. Need % compositions for mixtures.
6/21/19	Provide simple reminder posters for proper waste labeling that can be posted near each SAA	R. Scholtz	Bring posters to 9/10/19 meeting
6/21/19	Develop a schedule for regularly conducting CMS inventory scans of lab areas.	R. Scholtz/ J. Zhu	Completed- Draft schedule developed and scheduling with EHS
6/21/19	Follow-up with Waste Management regarding expedited waste requisitions. Invite Generator Assistant to next meeting.	R. Scholtz/ K. Etherington	Completed- Invited to 9/10/19 meeting
6/21/19	Identify options for better securing lab areas to prevent unauthorized access/theft	R. Scholtz/ J. Silveira	
6/21/19	Post hood alarm/facilities notification reminders on fume hoods	R. Scholtz	<b>Completed</b>
6/21/19	Post "911" emergency notification posters in each lab area.	R. Scholtz	Posters being printed
9/10/19	Follow-up with Waste Management on a better way to dispose of "base bath" used for cleaning glassware.	K. Etherington/ R. Scholtz	Looking into option for "overpacking" the containers.
9/10/19	Share safety alerts regarding proper chemical glove use and wearing of lab coats.	R. Scholtz	Safety alerts currently available on the ETA Safety website.
9/10/19	Send out reminder message to all gas cylinder cage users to place chain back on rack. Look into posting reminder signs.	J. Silveira	Monitor cage area to ensure chains are being used