Occupational Safety Committee
First Quarter Meeting
Dimond Library, Room 537
March 17, 2011 @ 9:00am

Agenda

- Welcome and Introduction
- Review and Approve September Meeting Minutes
- Public Health Week
- Respiratory Protection Medical Surveillance Changes
- 2011 Losses to date
- Ergonomics Program update
- Hazardous Building Materials Survey update
- Annual Training
- Other Business
The meeting was brought to order at 9:00 am. A quorum was present. The minutes of the December 16th, 2010 Occupational Safety Committee meeting were distributed and reviewed. Committee member Gibson made a motion to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by committee member Bennett and adopted by unanimous vote.

Committee member Bellington discussed recent losses and provided a 2010 calendar year review. The month of January 2011 resulted in 26 claims to which 15 were attributed to falls resulting in approximately $2,400 in losses to UNH. Of the 15 falls 10 were attributed to outside walkways. During 2010 UNH experienced a total of 359 incidents resulting in a total of $700,000 in losses. The greatest frequency of losses in 2010 was associated with falls with 71 claims and cuts and abrasions with 65. Committee member Gibson requested that for future discussions on losses, current numbers should be compared to previous years. In addition to comparing current years to previous years, committee member Luber requested if our loss ratios/MOD rate was
Committee member Cournoyer to research and present to committee.

Committee member Cournoyer updated the committee on the 2010 Public Health Week. With the theme for the week being “Safety is No Accident” OEHS is scheduled to present a session on workplace safety/ergonomics on Wednesday April 6th from 2:00 – 3:00 pm in the MUB Theater 1. In addition to the breakout presentation, OEHS would be participating in the Public Health Fair scheduled for Tuesday April 5th from 11:00 – 2:00 in the Union Court.

Committee member Cournoyer reviewed the recent changes to the UNH Respiratory Protection Program. As OEHS was approached by Facilities Operations and Maintenance to conduct their annual fit testing a review of the medical surveillance requirements was conducted. It was discovered that most of the employees that were in the respiratory protection program had received their medical clearance in 2000 – 2001. This is a ten year window. According to current OSHA standards employees are required to receive a re-evaluation when it is determined that changes in employment could impact an individual’s ability to wear a respirator, anytime an employee’s supervisor indicates a potential problem, or at the direction of the physician or other licensed health care professional. OEHS met with Health Services, Dr. Gladi Porsche and it was determined that updated medical surveillance should be conducted. In addition an expiration date would be added to assist with maintaining updated medical surveillance records. For those employees under the age of 40 a reevaluation is now required every five years and for those employees 40 and older a reevaluation is required once every three years. This has been reflected on the medical clearance forms and will be managed by OEHS.

Committee member Cournoyer briefed the committee on the progress of a UNH Ergonomics Program. OEHS is again partnering with the Occupational Therapy program where the participating students would be required to prepare and present an ergonomics policy for the campus. They would also be creating a standardized assessment checklist and training modules. In addition to working with Occupational Therapy, OEHS is participating in the Business Leadership program where students will be required to prepare and present an Ergonomics Business Plan for UNH. OEHS will utilize these materials to create a formal campus wide ergonomics program.

Committee member Cournoyer briefly reviewed the status of the campus wide Hazardous Building Material Survey. Hamilton Smith Hall and Hood House will be the first two buildings surveyed. Once completed a formalized template for reporting will be created and used by UNH. The next buildings are anticipated to be PCAC, Horton, and McConnell Halls. This program is being implemented to provide the campus with the accurate identification and locations of asbestos materials as part of a campus wide operations and maintenance program.

Committee member Cournoyer briefed the committee on the status of Annual Training. Facilities Operations and Maintenance are scheduled for two four hour refresher
modules to cover both regulatory required training and to address those areas where UNH has experienced an increase in losses. In addition, OEHS has partnered with Dining Services to conduct brief safety training discussions on areas directly impacting them. Focus will be on cuts and burns as well as slip, trip, and falls. OEHS will be partnering with Housing to conduct safety training for summer hires and will be conducting a full 8-hour safety training day for SPCT. As part of the training initiative, OEHS will also partner with Housekeeping in conducting its annual Asbestos Awareness training.

Committee member Gargano requested if any progress had been made regarding traffic signage around the Leavitt Center. Committee member Eaton informed the committee that he did communicate with UNH Police, Chief Paul Dean, and was to coordinate additional communications with UNH Police, UNH Parking, and affected parties.

The committee continued its discussion regarding a skateboard policy. Committee member Eaton conducted research but reported that he had found no new information. Committee member Williams asked if anyone was aware of any laws for skateboards and/or pedestrians. As part of the discussion laws for cyclists were mentioned. Committee member Eaton was to continue researching.

Committee member Leach asked the committee if there were any procedures for reporting damage to stairs. Stairs, walkways, and sidewalks are reviewed on a regularly schedule basis by Mike Mason, FD&C and based on their condition and use, prioritized for repair under the R&R fund.

The committee chose to meet again on June 16th at 9 am in Dimond Library Room 537. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM.