Crisis averted: preparing for safety

1. Learn
   - Incidents at post secondary institutions
   - Field Incidents
   - Common root causes

2. Respond
   - Supervisor Safety E-Learning
   - Hazard Management

3. Anticipate
   - Changes to OHS legislation (Bill 30)
University lab incidents

- In USA, approximately 120 university lab accidents involving injury, millions in damages, and one death (2001-2011)\(^1\)
- Workers in university labs 11x more likely to get hurt in university vs. industrial lab\(^2\)

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1 U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board. (2011) Texas Tech University Laboratory Explosion: Case Study
Why do they happen? Key factors

1. Insufficient supervision/leadership
   - Failure to prioritize safety
   - Failure to model safe behaviours
   - Failure to adequately train/mentor staff/students

2. “Not enough time”
   - Research pressures: funding, timelines, innovation
   - Hazard assessment ignored or neglected (“takes too long”)
Our Field Experience 2017

- > 5 ATV incidents (broken bones / crush / equipment damage) in 2017
- Two motor vehicle incidents on highways (Moose impact / vehicle in ditch)
- High wind events (significant damage and high potential for injury)
- Float plane incident (near miss)
- Impacts of wild fire
- Multiple first aid (cuts, twisted ankle, heat stress, etc.)
What’s the solution?

1. **Train Supervisors**
   - What are a supervisor’s EHS roles, responsibilities
   - What are safety regulations?
   - How to train workers and evaluate competency
What’s a “supervisor”??

Before Bill 30…..

**Anyone who directs the work of others**

After Bill 30…..

**A person who has charge of a work site or authority over a worker**
Why take the course?

- Learn practical strategies in support of a safe, healthy, and environmentally responsible workplace
- Demonstrate a commitment to safety (and align with the U of A’s commitment)
- It’s free, easy to complete, and the *right thing to do*
EHS Supervisory eLearning: what is it?

- Built with support from faculties/departments across campus:
  - Focus groups with academics, technicians, safety designates, training professionals and subject matter experts
  - Features interviews with the president, deans, directors, chairs, academics, parents, technicians and others across the university
EHS Supervisory eLearning: what is it?

- 7 modules:
  - Foundations
  - Hazard Management
  - Inspections
  - Incident and Emergency Management
  - Training and Competency
  - Environment Management
  - Contractor Management
- Coming soon (maybe) implications of Bill 30

Designed for Supervisors but open to anyone with a ccid
Results to date

I learned a lot from this training that will be practical to my position

“Gain confidence with environment, health, and safety”

“Convenient…”
What’s the solution?

2. Hazard Management

• Complete your Field Activities Plan

• Intentionally work through the process

• Share the results with everyone involved

• Complete the Daily Field Safety Log Book—note changing conditions
Hazard Assessment: When?

- **Before** work begins
- At reasonable intervals
- **New** activities, equipment, materials, processes, environments
- **Changing** activities, equipment, materials, processes, environments
OHS Legislation: Changes for 2018

- Bill 30: New Alberta OHS Act
  - An amendment to the OHS Act
  - Passed third reading in December 2017
  - Includes changes to WCB legislation

- Revisions to OHS Act will come into effect June 1, 2018

- In the process of reviewing the impacts
Select OHS Changes

• Includes psychological and social well being of workers
• Provides workers with the right to refuse dangerous work
• Obligates the employer to prevent harassment or violence
• Mandates a health and safety program with prescribed elements
• Stricter reporting requirements
Select OHS Changes - Supervisors

- Need to be competent
- Need to protect the health and safety of workers
- Ensure workers follow the OHS Act, regulation and code
- Advise workers on hazards
- Ensure workers follow hazard controls
- Report unsafe acts and conditions
- Training program will become mandatory
Select OHS Changes – HS Committees

• Mandates Health and Safety Committees
• Defines composition of the committee

• Duties include the following
  • Consideration of worker complaints
  • Hazard identification
  • Development and promotion of health and safety education programs
  • Inspection of the work site at regular intervals
  • Participation in incident investigations

• A designated Health and Safety Representative will assume the duties for small worksites (5 to 19 employees)
Thank you for this opportunity