Making Connections
EHS Committee Mini Conference

Tuesday December 6, 2016
8:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
Maple Leaf Room, Lister Centre

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH & SAFETY
What to expect this morning...

- Welcome from the EHS Senior Administrator’s Committee
- We’re in the early days of our EHS Committee journey
- Today is the first time that people from different Faculties and Portfolios are coming together in an EHS community
What to expect this morning…

• We have a variety of people in the room
  • EHS Committee members
  • EHS leaders
  • EHS staff
  • Members of the EHS SAC
What to expect this morning…

- Some are well on their way
- Some are starting out
- Some are planning to start
- Some are leaders in Faculties/Portfolios and may not be part of an EHSC
- Some are knowledgeable about EHS; some are not
- *All bring insight and wisdom to our community*
What to expect this morning...

- Make a connection to:
  - New information
  - New colleagues
  - New ideas
  - New actions
Housekeeping Items

- Washrooms
- Emergency
  - First Aiders
  - Evacuation & Muster Point
- Breaks & Refreshments
- Questions
  - Make a note for the Panel Q&A at the end of the session
Agenda

• Why the EHSSAC & F/P Committees are critical to the U of A
• What is this EHS MS thing?
• EHS Update & Initiatives
• Activity A - Mixed table groups
• The Journey of the PhysEd & Rec EHSC
• Networking Break
• Community Voice of EHS – An Opportunity
• Activity B – Working with your F/P
• Lessons from the Wild Dogs of Africa
• Q & A Panel and Call to Action

Door Prizes!!!
…Next up Philip Stack
Why the EHSSAC and Faculty/Portfolio Safety Committees are critical to the U of A
Board Safety, Health & Environment Committee

- VP – Finance & Admin
  - AVP – RMS (CESO)
  - EHS Department
    - General Safety Committee
    - Bio Safety Committee
    - Radiation Safety Committee

Faculty Governance

- EHS Senior Administrators Committee
- Faculty/Portfolio EHS Committees
University of Hawaii, Manoa

- Research University
- 19,000 students
- 19 Colleges and Schools
- Flagship campus of UH system
October, 2015 postdoc emailed her PI, presenting a range of safety questions in working with the gas supplies. There was no record of the PI replying to the post-docs safety questions.

- Postdoc worked with a hydrogen/oxygen gas mixture contained in a 13 gallon pressure tank

- A hazard assessment for using the tank with hydrogen and oxygen was not documented
• Lab inspection Jan, 2016 but the use of the gas storage tank was not questioned as inspectors used a typical lab safety checklist.

• The postdoc reported to her PI being electrically shocked when touching the pressure vessel. Researcher, gas storage tanks or pressure vessel not grounded.

• The postdoc reported to the PI a “cracking sound” within a 1 gallon pressure vessel. The reaction occurred when the on/off button was depressed. The PI strongly advised the researcher not to use that vessel again.
A SERIES OF EVENTS
AT UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I, MANOA

• On March 16 the postdoc using the 13 gallon pressure tank filled the tank for the 11th time.
A postdoc at the University of Hawaii, Manoa, lost an arm and suffered other injuries in a lab explosion on the campus on 16 March, 2016. Thea Ekins-Coward, 29, was working alone with a mixture of carbon dioxide, hydrogen, and oxygen gases at the time of the blast.
Summary map of the explosions effects.
Root Causes

- Serious deficiencies in institution’s approach to lab safety
- Improper risk assessments and lack of safety culture
- Overall lack of effective safety oversight
- Insufficient training in hazard recognition and risk mitigation
- Dated and ineffective inspection program and SOPs

Source: UC Centre for Laboratory Safety Investigation Report
“The University of Hawaii thanks the UC team (UC Centre for Laboratory Safety) for its thorough investigation,” said UH Mānoa Vice Chancellor for Research Michael Bruno. “The lab safety recommendations provide valuable guidance in our commitment to a culture of safety in each and every research and teaching laboratory on our campus.”

“Our goal now is to become a national leader in laboratory safety.” said Bruno. “It’s about enhancing our safety culture and standard operating procedures where risks are constantly being identified and minimized. Everybody has a role to play.”

Source: University of Hawaii News, July 1, 2016
...and now we’ll talk about our story...
The not so distant past

1. Field Research ATV Fatality
   Serious Lab Incidents

2. EHS Management System Concept

3. Updated EHS Policy and Appendices
   (called out EHS SAC & Committee Duties)

4. Request to Deans & VPs: Forming the EHS SAC & EHS Committees

5. First meeting of EHS SAC
   March 2015

6. Creation of Annual Plans for F/P Committees & EHS SAC

7. EHS Mini Conference for F/P EHS Committees and EHS Leaders

Today!

A bright and safe future at the U of A

Making Connections
EHS Committee Mini Conference
THE EHSSAC AND FACULTY/PORTFOLIO SAFETY COMMITTEES ARE CRITICAL IF:

• We are to avoid incidents similar to those at the University of Hawaii or here at the University of Alberta
EHSSAC MANDATE

• Promote and encourage participation in environment, health and safety initiatives
• Approve the annual EHSSAC plan and communicate it to the the Faculty/Portfolio EHS Committees
• Monitor the implementation and operation of the EHS Management System (EHSMS)
• Report to the Board Safety, Health and Environment Committee (BSHEC) on the status of the implementation and operation of the EHSMS
FACULTY/PORTFOLIO EHS COMMITTEE MANDATE

• Lead the implementation of the EHSMS within Faculties/Portfolios
• Identify opportunities and recommend environment, health and safety initiatives
• Promote and encourage the university community to participate in environment, health and safety initiatives
• Make recommendations to Senior Administrators on how to resolve environment, health and safety concerns
• Prepare an annual Faculty/Portfolio report outlining overarching trends, incidents, mitigation strategies and lessons learned
THE GOAL OF THESE COMMITTEES IS TO:

• instill a culture of safety across the university

• establish hazard and risk assessments as the norm

• create an environment where safety training and inspections are welcomed and expected.
Where are we on our journey?...

...off to a good start...
...off to a good start...

- 10 F/Ps are represented on EHS SAC
- Regular bi-monthly EHS SAC meetings
- Majority of represented F/Ps have
  - Started or refreshed their EHS Committees
  - Drafted or renewed their Terms of Reference
  - Created their Annual EHS Plans and are putting them into action
...off to a good start...

**F/P Annual EHS Plans**

- Start with quick wins
  - Orienting your committee
  - Drafting a ToR
  - Establishing regular meetings
  - Connect with F/P leadership
- Some F/Ps have also included goals on
  - Emergency & Operational Continuity Plans
  - First Aid kits/training
  - Workplace Inspections
  - Safety Manuals
  - Identifying key hazards & risks
...next steps down the path...

- Make some new connections today to:
  - People
  - Resources
  - Ideas
- Meet regularly – keep the conversation moving forward
- Leverage your EHS Department Rep to connect to tools and best practice
- Start thinking about next year’s plan
OUR SAFETY COMMITMENT

Safe behaviour is a requirement of working at the University of Alberta. It is a legal and ethical obligation that prevents injuries and illness, saves lives, and makes us more effective in everything we do.

OUR COMMITMENT:

We plan our work so it can be done safely.
We ensure people have the training, skills and tools they need to work safely.
We stop unsafe work and report problems so they can be corrected.
We report workplace incidents and injuries so others can learn from our experience.
We listen to the safety concerns of others and respond appropriately and respectfully.
Above all we understand that the primary responsibility for working safely lies with each of us.

DAVID N. TUPPER
President and Vice-Chancellor
Why the EHSSAC and Faculty/Portfolio Safety Committees are critical to the U of A