



## University Safety Committee Minutes

**Date:** 09/23/21

**Time:** 14:30 to 15:00 Zoom

**Chair:** Chad Johnson  
**Members Present:** Dave Meany; Drew Ayers; Dave Sundstrom; Gabe Palomarez,  
**Members Absent:** Christy Olivei

**Guest:**

The USC meet on May 3, 2021 at 15:30-16:15 Zoom

**I. Call to Order:**

a. Introductions

**II. Mandatory Agenda Items:** (WAC 296-800-13020) - 30 Minutes

- a. Review Safety and Health Inspection Reports (**Chad Johnson/EHS**)
  - Consideration of Safety Hazard Trends and Corrections
- b. Evaluation of Accident Investigation Reports (**Chad Johnson/EHS**)
  - Determine if Cause(s) of Unsafe Conditions were Identified and Corrected
- c. Evaluation of Workplace Accident & Illness Prevention Program (**Chad Johnson/EHS**)
  - Discussion of Recommendations for Improvement, as needed

**III. New Business; COVID 19**

**IV. Members comments**

**V Adjourn**

## Employee Incidents April 1 to September 1, 2021

Yellow highlight is allergy incidents.

Blue is a serious near miss

<p>Employee was walking down stairs, slipped and then caught herself with her left ankle and both legs. Ankle was starting to swell. Employee unsure she will seek medical attention.</p>
<p>Employee bumped his head on a metal box by the recycle container. The impact opened a wound on his left eyebrow. Employee applied a band aid, required no further attention</p>
<p>I was moping the elevator floor and as I was backing out of the elevator the car was not level with the floor and my heel caught the edge and I tripped and fell backwards and wrenched my back. I am now experiencing muscle spasms in my back.</p>
<p>Grabbing trash in Sutton hall first floor out of trash bag. There was a needle wrapped in paper towels and got poked. Broke the skin. Washed the area for 20 mins and then left to Spokane for testing after incident.</p>
<p>I was throwing recycling into a dumpster when something in my lower back and hip area popped and i had severe pain in that area. Now my sciatic nerve feels pinched and pain is shooting down my right leg and my back is stiffening up and i can hardly walk.</p>
<p>Putting fried food into fryer basket, a few pieces fell directly into the fryer oil, and Hot Oil splashed on to left forearm. leaving a mild burn on arm</p>
<p>It seems the air might have some chemical in it that is causing my tongue to burn, and other allergy-like symptoms. I have been noticing it for months, and the symptoms go away over the weekend, returning as soon as I get back to work. It seems to be tied to the operation of the air moving equipment in my office, as soon as the loud box turns on I get the allergy symptoms. There is writing on one of the boxes next to a small steel line that says the box contains R-22 refrigerant. I wonder if this chemical might be leaking. I am not experiencing any symptoms when I use my custodial chemicals in other closets, so it makes me think that something is wrong with the area.</p>
<p>While mopping the pool locker room floors I notice pain and discomfort in my left shoulder. The discomfort continued throughout the mopping procedure. Minor discomfort continued after stopping the mopping.</p>
<p>I was walking to my car and didn't pay attention to the hole, a big dip in ground for drain I think, in front of my car. I didn't realize how much of a drop it is and I fell down, fell on all 4's and hit my face. Scratched my knees, twisted my right ankle. Was not paying attention, looked to the left talking to someone and stepped right in the hole...the ground is level and then a big dip, hole...I believe its a drain possibly...not sure, lots of leaves.</p>
<p>I was using a tool that uses water to stone polish edges of the floor. As I work around, I felt a tingle in my thumb then a sharp jolt through my body. Luckily the breaker popped and I jumped out of the water as fast as I could. It happened on first floor next to the stairwell in front of</p>

## Employee Incidents April 1 to September 1, 2021

elevators next to the windows. As I'm working water is constantly coming out of machine. A hand held angle grinder specifically made to hook a water source to it. As I was running it, there was a floor plug (that I knew about). We tape them up so not to get water into it. What I didn't realize was the water was pooling on top of the plug. The tape wasn't able to hold it all out.

Skin irritation to face, arms, hands. This type of reaction has happened consistently in this space historically. See documentation @ EHS regarding particulate in JFK from about 2016-2020. I have not had this reaction while teleworking; only in JFK office space.

As I am making the transition to working back on campus in my office, I am noticing a constant low migraine, nausea, and tiredness. These are unusual symptoms for me, but when I was full time before we worked from home, I experienced these similar sicknesses from working in a long term exposure in my office and building. I am also noticing a mildew smell in my office.

I was loading sheet pans on to the racks in the catering van and reaching to the back of the rack I cut my left arm on a corner of the rack.

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Irritation of exposed skin (face, neck, hands/arms, legs)

Irritation of eyes

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Irritation of exposed skin (face, neck, hands/arms, legs) when working in M23C. When not in M23C from 1:30 to 3:30, skin irritation decreased. Skin irritation returned when returned to M23C at 3:45 p.m.

Irritation of exposed skin (face, neck, hands/arms, legs); eye irritation. Working in M23C with door closed (online meeting) from 9 to 10 a.m.; increased skin and eye irritation from 9-10 a.m. Symptoms not as bad at 2:30 p.m. the same day (previously working in office with door open).

On my way out of the townhouses I was realizing that the symptoms were first triggered around 11 when a chemical, I think called CLR, being used in the bathroom started filtering into the room I was in. I don't have a sense of smell so I didn't have a warning that it was building up and to get away from the chemical. I am going into my doctor's office where they have a walk-in clinic to get checked. When Kasey was contacted she said it was fine to go in to the doctor's office and tell them it's an L&I related issue and she would help me fill out an incident report on a work computer Monday. The symptoms I had were headache dizziness coughing and finally throwing up.

Noticed a little scratch while working after removing my gloves, washed hands and used antibiotic ointment on the little cut and put a band aid on it.

When I arrived, Veronica told me that Larry was at the bottom of the stairs, when she found him he was laying on the floor. When I reached the bottom of the stairs, Larry was sitting in a chair. Larry said that he had become light headed while walking down the hall. He said he had knelt down, and then must have slumped over. He said when he came to he started vomiting (dry heaves). After that he said he felt perfectly fine. I called paramedics to come check him out and Veronica brought him a couple juice boxes, as Larry is diabetic. Paramedics checked him out, his vitals were good. They are assuming his blood sugar probably dropped, and the juice had brought it back up by the time paramedics had arrived. Larry declined going to the hospital, and Kevin took him back to the office to eat.

Lifting a fryer grease drain basin (~20#) from a waist-height cart and right shoulder has a snap and stiffness, seems to be a clicking in the shoulder now.

I am just reporting that I am developing a rash again, currently on my left arm. This has been a continuous problem over the last few years for myself and other library personnel. There continues to be something in the air/surfaces/etc. that causes skin irritation and breathing issues. I am regularly wiping down my desk and other related services with anti-bacterial wipes to help mitigate the problem.

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