

**THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EARTH, OCEAN and ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES**

**EOAS/ESB LOCAL SAFETY TEAM**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, October 11th, 2022**  
**Zoom Room**  
**1:00 pm – 2:00pm**

**Present:** Raymond Andersen (Chair), Alice Chang (PCIGR), Bethany Ladd, Matthijs Smit, Lindsay Nelson, Sebastian Medrano, Emma Liu (secretary)

**Regrets:** Kate Blackburn, Brian Hunt

**Action Items:**

➤ **Meeting called to order:** 1:06 PM

**1. ACCIDENT/INCIDENT REPORTS: N/A**

**2. ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

➤ Asbestos Exposure Control Plan (Bethany)

- The initial assessment consists of low volume of fiber samples, all report results were within safe working procedure, and test passed. Now they have done a second round of testing, which includes higher volume, all control measures work great.
- MS questioned if there is any clarification on what kind of asbestos was handled, BL commented the subdivision for current version is only samples which are below 0.5% and above 0.5%. They will include the percentage range of which asbestos has been tested in the next version.
- SM questioned how does the lab determine of which procedure to follow in terms of different samples. BL indicated there are two types of testing, mineral fiber count testing and air monitoring testing, they have sent mineral samples to fiber count labs previously and these always came back with <0.5%. They will handle all rock samples which are <0.5% asbestos.
- SM questioned on the frequency of air monitoring testing, BL indicated that this is the first testing ever, and no annual test was recommended for now. She will bring the question back to the consultant. RA wondered if the expenses are significant, BL added that one test usually takes a day and it costs around \$5,000.

**3. NEW BUSINESS:**

➤ Review of past year's activities

❖ Field Work Safety Plans submitted and reviewed (circulated)

- In summary, the review committee has received 68 requests, 14 are international trips, most of them were processed in time, only 4 were late, as some people were not aware of the 2-week notice.
- Workload for committee members: BL commented that this is manageable. MS added that groups has started to circulate good examples. It may also cost caution from our side that we may receive similar template, with the situation that people haven't thought about which should be done.
- MS added that we may expect more fieldwork next year through the post-Covid recovery. RA concluded that we can re-evaluate next year.
- BL mentioned that she will be stepping down from the committee, and RA will talk to PT about the replacement.

- ❖ Rock Saw Safety Update (Sebastian)
  - SM received comments of two expert users and is finalizing the SOP.
  - Training and facility management: SM would like to hire one of the students who had temporarily helped with the facility. He also has candidates who are interested in the role, and will follow up with them on final decision.
  - Access control to the machines: SM tested the system control using RFID, it worked well on one machine, and need to work on the second machine.
  
- ❖ Lab Inspections (Sebastian)
  - Corey Wall and Ross McCulloch will support the inspections this year again. General plan is to email each PI on the inspection this year, and schedule the inspection with Emma.
  - SM is working on the building inspections in the next ten days. He will combine the documents and have LST review the results.
  
- ❖ Fire Drills (Sebastian)
  - Both fire drills in three buildings (EOS-M, EOS-S & ESB) were successful, feedback from the fire department representative was good.
  - One comment is that workers on the rooftop had issues to be aware of the alarm. With regards to this situation, SM will let the manger to know what to expect in terms of emergency.
  
- On-boarding Requirements for New EOAS Students (Sebastian)
  - Susan Allen has students who are doing computer-based work in ESB, she wondered if there is a simpler version to fill in.
  - SM commented that he does not expect answers like emergency shower or spill kit from staff who is working with computers.
  - UBC provided general onboarding form for new staff, SM will review the form and see if we could simplify our form based on the UBC one. But he does not want to promise anything, just in case we are not missing any critical training information.
  
- Field Work Safety Plans for Students Attending International Universities (Matthijs)
  - MS has done research on various cases of EOAS students joining field trips organized and hosted at and by other universities. In certain cases, students are fully insured for their field trips and no insurance needed from home university; while other universities do not offer insurance at all, in this case, students have to take private health insurance.
  - MS questioned whether we should follow normal procedure and provide full liability through university or simplify the process and have student insured through host university.
  - MS will draft some comments on this issue and will circulate through committee, RA will approach to PT and UBC lawyer as well.
  
- Provide personal protective equipment
  - PI asked if steel-toe boots are provided through lab as PPE.
  - WorkSafe BC considered that workers have to provide their own protective boots ([Safety footwear - WorkSafeBC](#)), but we could not find any UBC regulations regarding the issue.
  - MS commented that PPE normally will need to be purchased by PI's own grant, and PI should provide the steel-toe boots if they are necessarily maintaining the safety of the student.
  - AC added that the Faculty of Forestry are following the WorkSafe BC procedures: [Field Procedures Manual \(ubc.ca\)](#) (page 11).
  - RA will talk to PT and see if we should consult more widely to make sure if we can mandate PI to spend their research funds for such expense. SM will also raise this issue to the next JOHSC meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 1: 59 pm

**Next Safety Team Meeting:**

- **EOAS: Tuesday, Nov 8, 2022 at 1:00 PM.**
- **Dean's office, Stats, PIMS: Wednesday, Nov 9, 2022 at 11:00 AM.**