WHMIS Coordinators Meetings

Spring 2019

Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) hosted its annual meetings on Wednesday April 24, 2019 at the Fort Garry Campus and Wednesday May 1, 2019 at the Bannatyne campus. Twenty-three WHMIS Coordinators attended the two and a half hour sessions. During the meeting, EHS provided attendees with the following handouts:

- Updated 2019 Emergency Response Guide
- Hazardous Waste Management Disposal Chart
- WHMIS 2015 Pictograms poster
- Chemical Safety Guideline Reference Poster
- Biosafety Program Post Exposure Protocol Poster
- Biosafety Program Waste Disposal Chart Poster

Meeting Summary

EHS provided a power point presentation covering the following areas

I. Review of WHMIS program at the University of Manitoba
II. *New* WHMIS Training on UMLearn – What’s new?
III. Incidents at the University this past year...
IV. Chemical Safety Permit Applications and New WHIP Placards

WHMIS Program Review

- The review was intended to provide new WHMIS Coordinators information regarding their role and duties under the University’s WHMIS program. The review also served as a reminder to existing long standing WHMIS Coordinator’s in attendance. Information provided, also include online training availability staff and students through UMLearn.

New WHMIS Training on UMLearn

- During this presentation, EHS staff offered WHMIS Coordinators information on the revised WHMIS 2015 training available on UMLearn. The revised version has removed all information
pertaining to WHMIS 1988 and has included six new slides. The new slides provide the following information:

- **Health Effects**
  - Reversible and irreversible
  - Types of Effects (Acute vs Chronic)

- **Routes of Entry**
  - Inhalation
  - Ingestion
  - Absorption
  - Injection

- **Lab Specific Training** (i.e. Safe Work Procedures, Spill Procedures, Handling and Use and Personal Protective Equipment)
- **Safety Controls**
  - Elimination/Substitution
  - Engineering Controls
  - Administrative Controls
  - Personal Protective Equipment

- **New Workplace Label to be introduced...**

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**Incidents at the University of Manitoba**

- Over the course of the year, two significant incidents occurred involving chemicals or hazardous products. Each were considered serious incidents and as such reported to Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health (as per WSH regulation). EHS was involved with the investigations and felt it would benefit WHMIS Coordinators to share a redacted account of the incidents.

- **The incidents:**
  - Nitric Acid “Explosion”
  - Sodium Hydroxide Reaction

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**Fire Safety**

- During the presentation, EHS provided slides depicting common violations in labs pertaining to Fire Safety.

- **Common Violations include:**
  - Appliances and Power bars
  - Sprinkler Head and Electrical Panel clearance requirements
Chemical Safety Permit Applications and New WHIP Placards

- EHS provided information regarding the plan to role out the Workplace Hazard Information Placards (WHIPS) across both University of Manitoba campuses.
- WHIP information will be gathered through the Chemical Safety Permit Application process
  - New WHIP placards will be posted in buildings once all applications have been processed to avoid having “new and old” placards in buildings at the same time
  - Training on the new WHIPs for Departments will be available and provided by EHS, upon request.