

WASHINGTON STATE 4-YEAR PUBLIC UNIVERSITY EH&S DIRECTORS MEETING
SUMMARY OF TOPICS DISCUSSED – JUNE 29TH, 2017

WA STATE SALARY SCHEDULE FOR SAFETY POSITIONS (SUE SULLIVAN/WWU)

Sue discussed new salary adjustments for safety professionals and WWU's difficulty in hiring qualified safety professionals in public higher education institutions. WWU EH&S Department could not attract any Industrial Hygienists (IH) for the salary range posted per WA Job Classification Salary Range. Opted to downgrade position to a Safety Officer Designation and even then WWU is having difficulty filling the position. Reasons given are: cost of living in Bellingham; public versus private salary ranges; experience versus little to no practical experience (just out of college).

WWU – L&I CITATION FOR PPE & EYEWASH (SUE SULLIVAN/WWU)

L&I Compliance was called on an unrelated complaint and managerial supervisors were not available at the time of the visit. A facilities mechanic shepherded the compliance inspector to the site of the concern. The inspector noticed an area of interest and asked the mechanic if he could go in the room. Upon the affirmative, the inspector came across an eyewash station and activated it. Brown water emerged and no inspection tag was in evidence. The inspector then asked about personal protective equipment (PPE) and the mechanic could not answer the majority of the questions. A fine was assessment on the PPE and a fix-it ticket was issued for the eyewash station (no fine assed).

**WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY CHEMISTRY BUILDING FIRE (SUE SULLIVAN/WWU)
AUGUST 25, 2015**

SYNOPSIS: Fire broke out after hours on the third floor of the Chemistry Building. A Research Assistant (RA) was syphoning waste hexane from one container in the chemical fume hood into another secondary container on the floor when distracted by PI and left laboratory with professor. Waste hexane overflowed and solvent made contact with ignition source, probably drying ovens. Hexane flashed and back tracked to both containers, rupturing both containers and spraying solvent onto combustible material (cardboard and stacks of paper) about laboratory. This practice of syphoning waste hexane had become laboratory practice and culture.

POST RESPONSE FINDINGS – OUTSIDE CONSULTING FIRM:

- EH&S had no representation in the building. EH&S must become more active within departments that use and handle hazardous materials.
- No longer should the Faculty and/or Principal Investigators (PI) “abdicate” their duties as the Chemical Hygiene Officer to their grad students.
- EH&S must perform laboratory inspections (random) at least once in the academic year to ensure compliance. Faculty/PI must also perform documented laboratory self-inspections at least twice per academic year as required under their Chemical Hygiene Plan.
- WWU performs fire drills on regular intervals and everyone evacuated the building in a timely manner. A disconnect existed between the fire drills and shutdown procedures. The Chemistry Department had no procedures for active

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experiments within the research labs. Several experiments posed significant hazards within their own right if left unattended for an extended length of time.

- EH&S should assist the Chemistry Department with the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Shut-Down Procedures.
- Hiring of a dedicated EH&S staff member to interact with the various laboratories about campus.
- Other findings were directed at Facilities and the Bellingham Fire Department.

CONTINUITY OF OPERATION PLANNING TO IMPROVE YOUR EH&S PROGRAM (MORGAN BLISS/CWU SHM)

A continuity of operations plan (COOP) is a collection of resources, actions, procedures, and information that is developed, tested, and held in readiness for use in the event of a major disruption of operations. COOP planning helps prepare University units to maintain mission critical operations after any emergency or disaster. Morgan talked about EH&S setting up the various functions, what questions to ask, what to plan for, and merge those into a cohesive continuity plan.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND SAFETY CULTURE (SUE SULLIVAN/WWU)

Sue presented the various social media platforms available to notify and disseminate information to students and the general campus population. Facebook, Twitter, and the various apps that are available to the EH&S departments. This is especially important to the millennials who don't necessarily access other traditional forms of the written word.

SAFETY CULTURE ACCOUNTABILITY: HOW ARE YOUR UNIVERSITIES HOLDING PEOPLE ACCOUNTABLE? (KEVIN DEWITT/CWU)

Kevin led a discussion about Safety Culture with each of the Directors commenting on their particular trials and tribulations. General take-away was "you are not alone."

Accident Report and Incident Logs (Jude Van Buran & Doug Gallucci/UW)

Talked about UW's tracking system and in-depth reporting. UW has the ability to fine-tune cost of injuries to the departments. The department can develop loss trends that target those areas that indicate frequency and severity. UW EH&S has developed a comprehensive accident/injury report form.

AFTER HOUR STAFF ON CALL & UW SPILL RESPONSE TEAM (DOUG GALLUCCI/UW)

Doug talked about UW's Spill Response Team and the efforts that EH&S has in responding to the various and unique challenges on the UW campus. They are mid-way through an auditing and update process for all of their documents and having their personnel recertified. Doug shared several documents to the members which included the *Chemical Spill Advice Guide (2/2017)* and the *EHS SOC Guide (6/2017)*; SOC is "On-Scene Commander."

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STRATEGIC PLANNING AND METRIC DEVELOPMENT (JUDE VAN BUREN/UW)

Jude discussed University of Washington's efforts to quantify the EH&S Departments efforts across the campus community. She presented a section of the metrics on Safety Culture (SC); Compliance (C); Learning and Growth (LG); and Resources (R). Overall, it's a mixed bag in regards to meeting set targets with approximately 54% meeting target criteria (positive direction). Ten objectives are either in the process of being measured or have not started.

WRAP UP

Dwight Hagihara/WSU mentioned his early stage implementation of Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) for the University. WSU has a new President and several new VP's that have given support to the initiative.

Several offers of hosting next year's meeting was put forth from UW and WSU.