

HMSC Safety Committee
January 14, 2010

Meeting convened at 09:00 AM

Present: Randy Walker, Janet Webster, Deb Boylen, Bill Hanshumaker, Faith Cole, Vlada Gertseva, Dave Johnson, Hollis Lundeen, Rick Brown,

Old Business:

Minutes from December 2009 meeting are posted on HMSC website.

Cross walks will need to be re-painted when the weather improves

New Business:

Parking lot lights – some of the north parking lot lights have been turned off to see the illumination of the trial LED light. There was some concern that the lights need to be turned back on for safety during the short rainy winter days.

The committee discussed the new proposed LED lights, the advantages of potentially less maintenance, longer life and supporting dark skies. Personnel are used to the brighter light of the sodium lights, but is that amount of lumens necessary? NOAA has requested funds from an internal green grant program to purchase some additional LED lights.

EPA has installed some motion sending light s to provide additional lighting to their back parking areas that seem to be working.

Water Treatment Permit meetings – OSU and HMSC agencies met with ODEQ to review questions on the proposed water treatment permit for the two HMSC systems. Both systems will be using fewer chemicals that were used in the past and will promote a safe working environment while reducing exposure. Part of the ODEQ permit will require additional training for all staff that use oxidizers to clean tanks. This will promote better lab safety practices.

Fire and Rescue Visits - There were two responses by South Beach fire and rescue in the last month.

In the EPA building a charging battery exploded. Fortunately the battery had a shield that protected the occupants of the space from the explosion. This set off an alarm that the Fire team responded to. Explosion was possibly from the creation of hydrogen gas during the battery charging. EPA will investigate the proper the types of batteries they should be using in this application to avoid overcharging.

While conducting preventive maintenance in the RSF building, fine dust particles set off the smoke alarm. The building was evacuated and personnel remained outside until the

Fire Marshall gave the all clear signal. HMSC O&M personnel were stationed at each muster area with radios so that personnel knew when it was safe to re-enter the building.

Haitian earthquake - The Haitian earthquake was a reminder to all personnel that they should be aware of their workplace plan for evacuation, but since we live in a seismically active area to always be aware of escape routes, no matter where you may be on the coast.

Bill Hanshumaker mentioned that Pat Corcoran of Sea Grant extension provides Tsunami awareness training. Since seismic activity can also generate tsunami events, this event in the Caribbean is a good reminder of the need to continually inform and train personnel. Bill will see about setting up some sessions with Pat Corcoran for HMSC.

Erosion –

HMSC is tracking the erosion on the estuary trail and working with the permitting agencies to address the problem. Be careful when wading on the trail in the areas where it is eroding and logs have washed over the trail.

Water Safety –

While working on the Oyster floats in the bay, a person slipped and fell into the bay. Fortunately they were not injured and had colleagues there to get them back on the raft. Everyone was reminded to wear PFD's when working on the water.

Meeting ended at 09:30AM