

HMSC Safety Committee Meeting  
March 12, 2009

Members Present:

Janet Webster	- OSU / HMSC – Served as Chairwoman for the meeting
Bill Hanshumaker	- OSU/HMSC/Sea Grant
Devin Brakob	- NOAA / NWFSC
Dave Jacobson	- OSU/HMSC/COMES
Faith Cole	- EPA
Sean Matson	- OSU/HMSC/MBP
Dave Johnson	- OSU/HMSC/Maintenance
Carol Cole	- OSU/HMSC / COMES
Rick Brown	- NOAA / NWFSC

Meeting began at 09:00

Old Business:

*Tsunami evacuations Planning –*

Continued discussion of what to do in the event of a Tsunami, evacuation route on web site to south end of bridge is the only approved option. Barry Fisher Building is built to Seismic 4 standards, but no one will recommend that it be considered Tsunami safe since those forces are much different than those of an earthquake.

The Safety Committee recommends that the HMSC Management look into incorporating Tsunami safe building requirements and vertical evacuation sites with the proposed new construction for the MMI and ODFW buildings.

Bill Hanshumaker expressed concern for how to get someone in a wheel chair or an injured person up to the muster point in the short amount of time that would likely be available if there was a Cascadia Subduction zone earthquake.

He will look into evacuation devices to assist with getting people quickly to safety, including up stairs if there is vertical evacuation option. On a related subject, he will look into what should be available in case someone becomes injured out on the mudflats to get them back to the parking lot and medical treatment.

Faith Cole confirmed that the recent county table top exercise was primarily for first responders.

*Labeling of materials placed in the HazMat Locker and in Labs –*

Another item of old business, people were reminded to properly label wastes deposited in the hazmat shed and things in labs should also have proper labeling.

*Construction –*

The scaffolding has been taken down from the project at housing. O&M will be finishing out the structure.

*Dog Signs –*

There are still lots of dogs on the estuary trail. When will the No Dogs allowed signs be put up at all of the entrance points for the trail?

New Business:

*Community Service Clean up activities -*

It was noted that community groups were participating in removal of invasive species on the land adjacent to HMSC on the estuary trail. Since these groups appeared to be school children, there was concern that they were properly supervised and not using inappropriate power tools. There was also some concern for any liability with this group working from the OCA property onto the HMSC property.

*Phone List for responsible parties for Buildings on HMSC campus –*

Faith Cole brought up a concern that not all buildings have numbers on all sides and that during a recent episode on the campus, local authorities were looking for a missing person and thought that they smelled a gas leak, but were unable to readily identify the building and determine the appropriate responsible HMSC contact.

Recommendation from the Safety committee is to take the campus map and add an emergency phone list with persons responsible for each building. This list should be provided to local authorities – police, sheriff, fire and EMS. The list should be updated regularly and not less than once per year. It would also be prudent to give local authorities a tour of HMSC at least once per year to familiarize them with the campus and contact list.

*Safe use of Extension Cords –*

Rick Brown told the committee that one of the findings from the 2008 safety inspection of NOAA buildings was the continued inappropriate use of extension cords and potential dangers of daisy chains of extension cords and power strips. A message was sent out to all NOAA employee's reminding them that extension cords are for temporary service not to exceed 90 days and that they should never daisy chain power strips and extension cords.

This was identified as a problem in other facilities as well. One issue Dave Johnson brought up was in labs researchers modify the space for their experiments which often requires modifications to the supply of electricity, but the full cost of installing appropriate permanent installations had not been factored into the cost of the experiment. Researchers must insure that they have spaces set up with proper electrical power

distribution for the loads they will be using. For wet spaces this includes installing GFCI breakers. O&M will continue to be challenged by researchers modifying spaces, inappropriately using extension cords, power strips or not budgeting the cost for providing proper power to the experiment sites.

*Lights in FDL –*

Sean Matson brought up a concern that the lights in the FDL are on timers and there are no light switches on the East entrance. This creates a hazard for anyone that enters the Disease Lab from the east side in the dark.

Rick Brown will check with Mary Arkoosh to see if the EC division still requires the lights to be on a timer for their fish. If not, we will request O&M install a light switch.

*Diving with Nitrox –*

Bill Hanshumaker is working with the Oregon Coast Aquarium on an agreement to have them fill scuba tanks. He would like to extend the agreement to other agencies with divers on the HMSC campus.

He also brought up the issue his interest in exploring expanded use of NitrOx for diving since it reduces decompression times and would improve diver safety. This could be especially true for older divers since U.S. Navy dive tables are written for healthy, lean young men. NOAA Fisheries Divers were having a safety briefing at the same time as this meeting, so Bill connected with them on his interests outside of the HMSC safety committee.

No further new business was brought up and the meeting was adjourned at 09:45.

Action Items:

1. Safety committee recommends HMSC Management look into incorporating Tsumani safe building requirements and vertical evacuation sites with the proposed new construction for the MMI and ODFW buildings. (Janet Webster?)
2. Explore evacuation gear for handicapped or injured personnel. (Bill Hanshumaker)
3. Estuary trail “No Dogs Allowed” signs (Facilities – Randy?)
4. Update an emergency phone list and campus building map,
5. Explore getting building numbers for all sides of buildings.
6. Have at least an annual opportunity to take local responders through the campus to familiarize them and get input on improvements.
7. Find out if the FDL lab 119 lights still need to be on a timer (Rick Brown)
8. Work with Agencies on the HMSC campus to see if there is interest in partnering with OCA to support their scuba fill station to fill our tanks. (Bill Hanshumaker)