

April 2008 Summary of Accidents Received

Department	Date of incident	Description of event	Investigation and corrective action
USMARC	3/28/2008	Employee was repairing the fence and punctured their left hand with the wire.	EHS contacted the supervisor. The supervisor was not aware of the incident and stated they would investigate the incident and call back EHS. EHS has not heard back from the supervisor.
Agronomy and Horticulture	3/27/2008	A desk tipped over and hit the employee in their back.	The employee was working around a set of new furniture that was installed by a vendor. The employee was trying to install data port through the opening of the furniture. The employee pulled out drawers from a cabinet under a desk, which caused the cabinet/desk to tip over the employee. The supervisor stated the employee should have pulled out one drawer at a time and should have been more careful. The supervisor stated they communicated with the injured employee about safe work practices.
Selleck Food Services	3/30/2008	Employee burned their left forearm with hot broth.	Waiting for the supervisor to call back.
Veterinary Biomedical Science	4/2/2008	Employee's right arm was brushed by a pipette tip that was contaminated with infectious organism.	The employee stated they were pushing contents of biohazard waste bag down when they were brushed by a tip of a pipette that was used for Leptospira. There was no break to the skin. The employee stated they would wear a lab jacket with long sleeves and not have any exposed skin while working with infectious materials. EHS recommended not to push biohazard waste down in a garbage can.
NETV	3/31/2008	Employee fell off a ladder and hit their head on an electrical pane.	The employee had florescent light bulbs in their hands when their feet got tangled with the ladder steps. As the employee was descending the step ladder, they turned their body, which might have contributed to their feet getting tangled with the steps. The employee stated they would be more careful when coming down the step ladder. EHS recommended not to turn their body when coming down the steps. EHS recommended the supervisor to have ladder safety training at the department.
Cather Pound Neihardt Food Services	4/3/2008	Employee slipped on wet floors in the dish washing room while putting utensils away.	The dish washing room has floor mats to prevent slippage but the incident happened where it was not covered by floor mats. The area had non-slip tiles but they were not always effective when the floors are wet. The supervisor thought the employee needed to work more carefully on wet floors. The supervisor was not sure if the employee wore slip-resistant shoes and stated those shoes did not have good arch support, which were hard on the employees who stood while working. The supervisor stated the employees were reminded at staff meetings to work more carefully.

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Human Resources	3/4/2008	Employee was moving heavy boxes in the storage room. Later on the same day, the employee's left shoulder started to hurt.	The department is scanning the business records to store. The employee had to take boxes with the records down from the top of cabinets. The employee handled several boxes and each weighed about 30 to 40 pounds. Once the records are all scanned, the department will not have to store or handle paper records. EHS recommended the employee to ask for help when handling heavy boxes.
Selleck Facilities	2/22/2008	Employee was plugging in an automatic scrubber to charge when the battery exploded.	The floor scrubber was charged all night before the incident. When the employee tried to operate the scrubber, it did not start. The supervisor was with the employee and suggested to recharge the battery. The battery lid was open for a while before the incident, so the supervisor thought the acidic gas from the battery had been dissipated. When the employee plugged the charger to the scrubber, the battery exploded with a loud noise. Because the employee did not completely open the battery lid, the acid did not spray on the employee. The scrubber was checked by the vendor after the incident and no defect was found. The supervisor stated it was not possible to plug the charger in a wrong way by design. There was no problem with the charger or the scrubber before the incident. The supervisor stated they were not sure why the incident happened. The batteries of the two scrubbers the department owns were replaced with new ones. The employee was not wearing protective equipment although goggles and face shields were available. The supervisor stated it was mandatory to use necessary PPE.
Harper Schramm Smith Facilities	4/7/2008	Employee was vacuuming through a doorway when the door closed and pinched the employee's left middle finger.	The employee was holding a door open with one hand, and vacuuming with the other. The employee also had the door open with a foot. When they finished vacuuming the area, the employee let go of the door with their foot, but not with the hand. The hand happened to be by the door hinge, and when the door closed, their hand was pinched between the door and the frame. The employee stated they would use a door stopper when they want a door open while vacuum cleaning.
School of Natural Resources	3/31/2008	Employee strained their back. The employee was not sure how it happened.	The employee was moving an auger drill that weighed about 65 to 75 pounds with other employees. The employee suspected they might have twisted wrong while lifting the auger. The employee stated stretching before and after handling heavy items may help.
Northeast REC	1/19/2008	Employee strained their lower back after weighing 4H market beef.	Waiting for the employee to call back.

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Central Administration	4/3/2008	Employee slipped and fell down the stairs at Nebraska Union.	The employee was coming down on stairs at Nebraska Union from the food court to the north entrance. The employee was wearing high heeled shoes and was carrying only their purse. The employee stated the floor was not wet or dusty. The employee stated they would be more careful coming down stairs.
Civil Engineering	3/27/2008	Employee was changing machine head when a part fell on the employee's left hand. The employee bruised their left index and middle fingers.	The employee was changing a bearing of a compressive testing machine which test the strength of concrete cylinders. The bearing weighed about 75 pounds. The procedure required the employee to use a jack, but the employee was not trained on safety procedures. The employee underestimated the weight of the bearing and dropped it on their hand. The employee worked different hours from the lab technician who was supposed to train the employee. They did not meet until after the incident. The lab technician did not know the employee was using the equipment. EHS recommended the department to ensure all employees trained in safe operating procedures of the lab equipment.
NETV	4/9/2008	Employee lacerated their right middle finger while cleaning a kick plate on a door.	The employee was cleaning the kick plate that had floor wax on the surface. The employee applied the floor wax remover on the kick plate and was washing the plate in the running water. The kick plate was made with metal, and had a jagged edge. The employee touched the jagged edge and lacerated their right middle finger. EHS recommended the employee to use gloves when handling materials with sharp edges. Because the employee was washing the part with water, they could not have used work gloves. The employee stated they would use thick vinyl gloves when washing sharp objects in water.
Geosciences	4/9/2008	After employee moved research materials and boxes, the employee felt muscle spasms and pain in their back.	The department moved storage of a project from Woodier building to Textron building. The department hired UNL Moving Services to move items. After the items were in the new area, the employee rearranged them on their own. The employee stated some boxes weighed about 100 pounds but on average they were between 40 and 60 pounds. Some boxes were awkward shape and were hard to lift. After the work, the employee's back started to hurt. The employee stated the department finished moving and did not anticipate another move for a while. The employee stated they would move items with more people.
Cather Pound Neihardt Facilities	4/14/2008	Employee was moving boxes in the basement when they were bitten by a spider.	Waiting for the supervisor to call back.

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Cather Pound Neihardt Food Services	4/9/2008	Employee slipped on a puddle of water while pushing a cart, causing trays on the cart to fall on the employee's right ankle.	The employee was pushing a cart in a dish washing room where the floors were wet. The employee stated they would work more carefully on wet floors. The supervisor stated the floors had slip-resistant paint but they were not always effective. The supervisor was not sure if the employee was wearing slip-resistant shoes and stated those shoes did not give good arch support. The supervisor stated the employee needed to work more carefully and safety issues were discussed at staff meetings.
Abel Sandoz Food Services	4/16/2008	Employee pinched their left big toe with a cart that the employee was pushing.	The supervisor stated the employee ran over their left foot with a cart full with dishes. The supervisor was not sure how employee ran over their foot but suspected the employee was not very careful. The employee had been off work since the incident.
Custodial Services	4/22/2008	Employee lacerated their left index finger after picking up dirt off the floor with a dustpan.	Waiting for the supervisor to call back.
Athletics	1/15/2008	Employee's knee was twisted while wrestling with a student athlete. The employee had pain in their left knee after the incident.	Waiting for the supervisor to call back.
Landscape Services	3/21/2008	Employee spent long period of time bending over during general landscaping duties and also lifted heavy objects. The employee's back gradually became sore.	The supervisor stated the injury was probably caused by cumulative effect of the general job duties, rather than an incident. The employee had to handle materials, pull weeds, and perform other general landscaping duties. The employee worked one and a half to two hours a day because the employee was a student worker. The department had a physical evaluation for a full time employee but not for a student employees. However, supervisors were to ask if a job applicant could perform certain physical demands of the job at the hiring. The supervisors were to assess if an employee could perform the job on daily basis. The department rotates employees' duties to minimize the physical demands.
Selleck Food Services	4/7/2008	Employee was pushing a table into an elevator. The wheel on the table caught the gap between the elevator and the building. The table fell along with the employee. The employee hit their right shoulder when they fell onto the floor.	Waiting for the supervisor to call back.