

June 2009 Summary of Accidents Received

Department	Date of incident	Description of the event	Investigation and countermeasure
Cather Pound Facilities	5/27/2009	Employee stepped on a refrigerator cord while lifting it with another employee and twisted their left ankle.	Waiting for the supervisor to call back.
South Central REC	5/29/2009	Employee cleaned equipment with compressed air after applying insecticide. The employee felt burning sensation in both eyes and respiratory system.	The employee used compressed air to dry equipment. The equipment will be stored in the area where there was no heat and it will freeze during the winter if it was not completely dry. The pesticide used did not require the use of respirators per its label. The incident happened on a windless day. EHS recommended to use chemical resistant goggles for the eyes, and stay upwind to reduce the potential for exposure.
Nebraska Unions	5/26/2009	Employee strained their both forearm after lifting a 6-gallon pail of brominator tablets.	The employee handled heavy desks by themselves before they experienced pain in their arms. When the employee picked up the brominator tablets, they felt pain in their arms and back. The supervisor stated the employee should have asked for help from other employees or use a tool such as a cart. The supervisor spoke with the employee about safe work practices.
FMP Utility Services	5/16/2009	Employee claimed to have been bitten by a spider while working in the steam tunnel.	The employee was not sure where they were bitten by a spider but they thought it was either in the steam tunnel by Thompson Library or in a manhole by VBS. The employee sustained the insect bite on their right calf despite clothing covering the area. The supervisor thought it would be difficult to prevent insect bites in situation such as this.
Selleck Food Services	5/18/2009	Employee was carrying a bridge model with another employee to paint outdoors. A gust of wind pushed the bridge, almost falling out of the employee's grip. The injured employee tried to hold onto the bridge and sprained their right shoulder.	The employees were making decorations for the summer conferences. The supervisor stated the employee had pre-existing injury to the same shoulder. The employee was on job restrictions but did not follow the restrictions. The supervisor stated they would make sure the employee follow the restrictions.
Child Youth & Family Studies	6/5/2009	Employee was supervising child care activities when they rolled their ankle and fell. The employee sprained their left ankle.	The employee was playing with young children in the grassy area by the building. The employee stated they were wearing sandals. The employee rolled their left ankle and fell. The employee stated they would be more careful.
Abel Sandoz Food Services	5/22/2009	Employee was lifting a 8 foot long table with other employees. The employee strained their arms.	The employee was told to get help by the supervisor but did not follow the instruction and lifted the table on their own. The supervisor stated they talked with the injured employee to follow instructions and get help when handling heavy objects.

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Nebraska Statewide Arboretum	5/14/2009	Employee punctured their left small toe with a pitch fork while spreading mulch.	The employee was using a large pitchfork to scoop mulch when they brushed their toe with the pitchfork. The wound became infected. The employee stated they would be more careful.
Athletics	6/5/2009	Employee strained their lower back when they lifted a power washer off a Cushman.	Waiting for the supervisor to call back.
Burr-Fedde Facilities	6/10/2009	Employee was drilling horizontally. The drill became impacted and the employee lost balance and fell onto the floor.	Waiting for the supervisor to call back.
Payroll	6/9/2009	Employee slipped and fell on the front steps of Architecture Hall.	The employee thought the steps at the east entrance of Architecture Hall were uneven and without a handrail. EHS visited the site and noted that the steps were even and in good condition, and there were hand rails at both ends of the stairs.
Engineering Research Center	6/10/2009	Employee tripped and dropped a 30 pound steel part on their right hand, lacerating and fracturing their right hand.	The employee slipped on the floor when they took the steel part out of a lathe. The part fell on the employee's right hand. The employee stated the floors were cleaned every day, but there might have been metal chips or oil because of the type of work at the shop. The employee stated they would be more careful.
Athletics	5/5/2009	Employee almost fell into a gymnastics pit. The employee tried to catch themselves by holding onto a pole and strained their left elbow.	The employee stated they did not see the gymnastics mat was over the edge of the pit and stepped on it. The employee slipped and almost fell into the pit. The supervisor stated the employee did not make the accident report for a while.
Cather Pound Food Services	6/10/2009	Employee slipped and fell at the dining room. The employee bruised their left forearm and left knee.	The employee slipped on a small patch of water on the dining room floor. Spills are usually cleaned up as soon as noticed, but the employee did not notice the spill.
University Dining Services	5/8/2009	Employee stated they were cutting vegetables with a meat slicer. The employee lacerated their left fingers.	The supervisor stated the employee did not use a guard correctly although they were instructed how to.

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Building Systems Maintenance	6/9/2009	Employee fell from a ladder and hit their head on the concrete wall and the floor.	The employee was using a pipe wrench to peon a valve. The employee had to use force and the wrench slipped, causing the employee to lose balance and fall from the ladder.
Building Systems Maintenance	6/16/2009	Employee was cutting a pipe with a sawzall. Their hand slipped and their left thumb was caught in the sawzall.	The employee was cutting a steel electrical pipe with an electrical saw (sawzall). The saw was caught in the pipe and kicked the tool back toward the employee. The tool hit the employee's finger and lacerated it. The supervisor stated they showed the employee proper work practices to cut a steel pipe.
Custodial Services	6/17/2009	Employee was emptying a trash can and tripped, causing the employee to fall backward and fracture their left wrist.	The employee used a table saw to hold the door open, although a door stopper available. The table saw hit the pre-existing wound, causing the employee to fall. The supervisor stated they spoke with the employee to use the proper tool for the job.
Civil Engineering	4/28/2009	Employee was working with another employee in the civil engineering lab. Another employee accidentally hit the injured employee's hand with a shovel edge.	The two workers were shoveling concrete approximately a foot away from each other. They were working very quickly so the concrete would not set. The injured employee was hit by another employee. The employee stated they would be more careful.
School of Music	6/17/2009	Employee tripped on an electrical cord and fell on their right knee and side.	The employee was sorting out the band uniform inventory. The employee used an extension cord to plug a fan. The employee tripped over the extension cord and fell. The employee stated they would tape the extension cord to the wall to eliminate a tripping hazard.
Custodial Services	6/18/2009	Employee was hit by a falling aluminum frame in Behlen basement.	EHS visited the site and noted that the building occupants had many materials such as experiment tools, bicycle, etc. on the hallway in the Behlen basement. EHS requested the department to keep the hallway clear of materials.
Veterinary & Biomedical Sciences	6/21/2009	Employee was grinding tissue samples in a tube when the tube broke and lacerated the employee's left index finger.	The employee was grinding infected tissue samples in the biosafety cabinet using a homogenizer. The glass tube became hot and broke into pieces when the employee took it out of the homogenizer. The employee stated they would let the tubes cool down before taking them out of the homogenizer. EHS recommended to inspect glassware before each use.
USMARC	6/19/2009	Employee was walking between buildings and stepped on an old needle on the ground.	The supervisor stated the needle appeared to be very old. The grounds keeping work might have brought an old needle to the surface. The supervisor stated the needle disposal protocol has been strictly followed and there was very little chance the needles would be disposed on the ground now.
USMARC	6/22/2009	Employee stepped off a ladder and fell, fracturing their right leg.	The employee was changing light bulbs in a building, using an 8 foot high ladder. The employee stated their legs got tangled while coming down a ladder, causing the employee to step awkwardly. The employee shattered their leg bones. The supervisor had not had a chance to talk with the employee and was not sure why their legs became tangled. The employee stated in the report that they would be more careful.

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Center for Biotechnology	6/25/2009	Employee slipped on ice in the hallway.	Waiting for the employee to call back.
Northeast REC	6/2/2009	Employee was using a push mower and strained their left wrist.	The employee had to mow grass in the research field. The grass was very tall so the employee used a push mower. The employee had to push hard to mow and strained their left wrist. The employee stated they would mow more frequently so they could use a riding mower.
Human Resources	6/26/2009	Employee strained their lower back while lifting a banker's box.	The box was very heavy and filled with files. The employee stated they would not lift heavy boxes in the future.
Campus Recreation	6/24/2009	Employee climbed up a ladder and hit their head with materials stored above.	The employee was on the ladder in the air handling room. The employee did not realize there was a threaded rod above and hit their head against it. The employee stated they would watch where they were going and be more attentive to the surroundings.