

June 2008 Summary of Accidents Received

| Department | Date of incident | Description of event | Investigation and corrective action |
|---------------------------------|------------------|--|---|
| Abel Sandoz Facilities | 5/30/2008 | Employees twisted their knee when going upstairs. The employee landed in an awkward way. | The residence hall is being renovated. The employee had to move a refrigeration unit for sandwich station from the first floor to the second floor. The unit was too big to fit into the elevator. There were about a dozen workers lifting the unit. The supervisor guessed that the unit weighed about 1500 pounds. The employees had to move it over two flights of stairs. The employee might have twisted their knee as they were carrying the unit. The supervisor stated they would probably hire contractors who specialize in moving heavy equipment if they had to move heavy items again. |
| Selleck Facilities | 6/2/2008 | Employee was cleaning walls when they burned their right forearm with cleaning chemicals. | The employee was cleaning walls with cleaning chemicals. The employee was wiping the walls and using a mop. The employee was wearing elbow-length gloves but the cleaning chemical got inside the gloves. The employee was wearing a T-shirt and burned their skin where they were exposed to the chemical. The employee stated they would use a rubber band to close the end of the gloves. EHS recommended the employee wear long sleeve shirt or jacket that cover arms. |
| Harper Schramm Smith Facilities | 6/3/2008 | Employee lacerated their left hand as they were disposing of a broken lamp. | The employee was disposing a lamp that was left by a residence hall tenant. The tenants were supposed to dispose unwanted items in the dumpster before moving out of the residence hall. The injured employee did not realize the lamp was broken and touched the sharp edge. The employee lacerated their hand and needed to get stitches. The supervisor stated the tenants were told to dispose unwanted items. The residence hall make it easier by bringing an extra dumpster for tenants. The employee needed to be more careful. |
| West Central REC | 5/25/2008 | Employee was moving horses out of a corral on a horse back when the horse bucked the employee off. The employee fractured their hip. | The employee was riding their own horse for herding cattle. Other horses was in a pen where the employee wanted to put cattle in. The employee was chasing the horses out of the pen on a horseback. The horse the employee was riding started bucking, causing the employee to fall and fracture their hip. The incident happened when it was cool and crisp. The horses were feeling good and were more energetic. The supervisor stated the animals would behave unexpectedly and there was not much the employee could have done. EHS suggested catching and moving horses on foot, not on horseback, but the supervisor thought it would not have made a difference. |

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| Plant Pathology | 5/22/2008 | Employee tripped over uneven ground at the entrance of Plant Pathology greenhouse and fell. The employee tried to break the fall by bracing with their hands. The employee scraped their left palm and fractured their right wrist. | The employee was not feeling well when this incident happened. The employee was working in a greenhouse for a while and might have overheated. The employee left the greenhouse, where the pavement outside the greenhouse was slightly higher than the greenhouse floor (less than 1 inch) The employee tripped on the edge and fell. The employee fractured their hand. The supervisor was not sure why the employee was not feeling well. The supervisor stated the workers were encouraged to take breaks as needed to prevent overheating. The employee stated they might have spent too much time in the greenhouse. |
| Financial Aid | 5/30/2008 | Employee was closing the glass door of a bulletin board. The door was hard to shut. When the employee closed the door, the glass door shattered and fell around the employee. The employee lacerated both hands and left foot. | The employee was changing papers in the bulletin board for the department in the hallway at Canfield building. The notice board had sliding doors with glass front. When the employee started to close the sliding door, the glass door shattered and broke into pieces. The pieces of glass fell around the employee, causing small lacerations on their hands and left foot. The employee stated the glass door was hard open, but was not sure why the glass door shattered. The department is taking down the bulletin board and will not use it again. |
| Harper Schramm Smith Facilities | 5/28/2008 | Employee lacerated their right index finger while trying to remove a drain trap of the custodial sink. | The employee was taking the drain trap out to clean, which was difficult to remove. The supervisor stated the employee should have asked a mechanic to help because the injured employee did not have the tools to take the trap out. The supervisor stated they spoke with the employee to get help. |
| Animal Science | 5/27/2008 | Employee was taking a needle off a syringe when tri-reagent sprayed on the employee's face from the syringe. | The employee stated they tried to change the large needle to a smaller one. The employee took the needle off the syringe when the content of the syringe sprayed on their body. The employee was wearing a lab jacket but their neck was exposed. The employee's face sustained a chemical burn. The syringe was a very small one. The employee stated the syringe was very close to their body, about 20 to 30 cm. The employee was doing this on a bench top. The employee was not sure what was in the tri-reagent solution. The employee stated they would extract fluid more slowly so inside the syringe does not get pressurized and they would keep more distance between their body and the syringe. |
| Nebraska Forest Services | 6/6/2008 | The employee was propagating a plant with chip grafting technique when the razor blade the employee was using slipped and lacerated their left small and ring fingers. | Waiting to the employee to respond. |
| Custodial Services | 6/6/2008 | The employee was cleaning a bathroom. The employee slipped on a wet floor and hit the right shoulder on a wall. | The supervisor stated the employee was cleaning toilet bowls with bowl swab. Water was dripping on the floor from the swab. The employee did not realize the floor was wet and slippery. The employee tried to brace the fall and hit their should on the wall. The supervisor stated the employee should have been more careful |

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| Libraries | 6/9/2008 | Employee strained their lower back after lifting a wooden box of library shelving parts. | The employee was lifting a box which contained shelving parts for the library. The supervisor thought the box weighted about 50 pounds. The employee had pain in their lower back later. The employee stated they would get help when lifting heavy objects. The supervisor stated the department had dollies and carts to move heavy items. |
| Custodial Services | 6/10/2008 | Employee lifted a trash can to a dumpster. The employee had a pain in their lower back later. | The employee was lifting a garbage can to dispose the contents into the dumpster. The employee did not think it would be very heavy and lifted the whole garbage can. The employee had pain in their lower back later. The supervisor stated the employee was usually careful about lifting heavy items. The supervisor stated the employee was usually careful about lifting heavy items. The employee can get a help if needed. |
| Human Resources | 6/9/2008 | Employee's right foot was punctured by a broken wired basket in their office. | The employee had a broken wire basket in their office. The employee placed it on the floor to be disposed of. A few days later, the employee stepped on the sharp wire of the broken basket. The wire punctured the employee's right foot. The employee was wearing sandals. The employee stated they would disposed broken office equipment immediately. |
| School of Natural Resources | 6/12/2008 | Employee slipped on wet floor outside of their office. The employee fell and hit their left knee and lower back. | Custodial Services cleaned the carpet in the area early in the morning. The employee thought the custodian might have splashed water on the hallway floor. The floor is light colored and a water puddle was hard to see, and there was no wet floor sign. The employee slipped and fell on the wet floor. After the incident, the employee talked with the custodian that there was an incident because of wet floors. The custodian reported the incident to their supervisor. Custodial Services told the injured employee that they would be more careful. |

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| Agronomy and Horticulture | 6/11/2008 | Employee was planting soybean at a privately-owned research plot site. As the employee was adjusting the planter height, the employee was caught between the tractor and the planter. The employee's lung collapsed. | The group of employees planted at a different location in the morning and were getting ready to plant at the incident site. Because the soil was softer at this site than the other site, the employee needed to adjust the planter depth. The employee adjusted the depth by moving the tri-point bar between the tractor and the planter. The employee reportedly told the other employee who was behind the wheel of the tractor to raise the planter height without coming out of the space between the tractor and the planter. The planter moved up diagonally, pinning the employee. The employee's body pushed the override button that was located at the back of the tractor. The employee was pinned between the tractor and the planter for about 5 minutes. The tractor was designed for one-person operation and had the override button outside. The employee could have moved the planter up by using the override button, instead of asking another employee to move the planter. The department had an all-department tractor training session with technicians that work with and around tractors. The department is planning to develop SOP. |
| Selleck Facilities | 6/12/2008 | Employee slipped on a wet floor and landed on their left knee. | The employee was getting a drink in a dining hall during a break. The floor was wet and the wet floor signs were up. No one saw the employee fall. The employee was wearing regular tennis shoes. The supervisor was not sure why the employee fell. The employee is a student worker and student workers do not get uniform allowance to purchase slip resistant shoes. The supervisor thought the employee needed to be more careful when they knew the floor was wet. |
| Midwest Roadside safety Facility | 6/9/2008 | Employee stepped off the back of the truck and rolled their right ankle. | EHS is scheduled to visit the site a few days after this report was composed. |
| Midwest Roadside safety Facility | 4/23/2008 | Employee hit their right knee against a guardrail they were moving. | EHS is scheduled to visit the site a few days after this report was composed. |
| Campus Recreation | 4/23/2008 | Employee pulled their lower back muscles when lifting off a mat in the weight room. | Waiting for the supervisor to call back. |
| Abel Sandoz Dining Services | 6/11/2008 | A can of peaches fell on the employee's left toe. The employee had broken the toe recently and aggravated the injury by this incident. | The employee had broken their left toe earlier this year at work. The employee was working at Cather Pound Neihardt Dining Services because Abel Sandoz Dining services is not open during this summer due to renovation. Cather Pound storage area did not have a shelving system to store large cans as Abel Sandoz does. The employee placed a large can on a counter and the can rolled off the counter, hitting the employee's toe. Housing units often move employees around to help where it is busy. The departments usually go over basic safety in the department, but the supervisor did not think the storage of large cans was included in the training. The supervisor thought the employee could have been more careful. |

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| Biological Sciences | 5/15/2008 | Employee dropped a spatula in a cake batter. The employee tried to get it out of the batter when their right hand was caught by a mixer paddle. | The incident happened at Cedar Point Biological Station where students work on projects staying at a dormitory. The incident happened in the kitchen. The employee dropped a spatula in a cake mix in a large mixer. The employee shut the mixer off but did not wait long enough for the paddle to stop rotating. Paddle hit the employee's right hand. The employee lacerated their right hand, but did not need stitches. The supervisor stated the employee would wait for the mixer to stop completely. |
| Agronomy and Horticulture | 6/6/2008 | Employee claimed that bending over and kneeling most of their duties caused the bone spur in the vertebrae to be pushed into their nerve. The employee had pain in their back. | The incident was referred to Ergonomics Specialist. The Ergonomics Specialist is waiting for the employee or the supervisor to call back. |
| Printing Services | 6/18/2008 | Employee tripped on a chair left while loading paper onto a cart. | The employee was working on a small printing job that required change of print every 10 sheets of paper or so. The employee was taking out each stack of paper to a nearby table. The employee tripped over a chair at the table and fell. The supervisor stated the table and chairs were used for meetings. The supervisor thought there was enough space around the chairs and the table. The supervisor thought the employee could have used a flag to indicate where each job ended, instead of taking them out on the table. There were materials available to be used a flags. The supervisor stated they had a staff meeting and discussed the safety issues about this incident. |
| Custodial Services | 6/25/2008 | Employee was unloading sheet metal with a delivery driver. The driver kicked the sheet metal while the employee held it. The employee lacerated their right hand and received 15 stitches. The employee had to have surgery to repair the tendon damage. | The employee belongs to Custodial Services but was helping Facilities Management Inventory on the day of the incident. The employee was receiving sheet metal from a delivery truck. The employee tried to help unload the sheet metal. The delivery driver stepped on the sheet metal which was pushed into the employee's hand. The supervisor stated the employee was told that they were not to help delivery drivers. The supervisor thought the employee was trying to be helpful. The supervisor reminded the employee that they were not to help delivery drivers. |
| Harper Schramm Smith Dining Services | 6/24/2008 | Employee was cleaning cooling utensils and steam jacketed kettle. Hot corn syrup spattered on their left palm and hand. | Waiting for the supervisor to call back. |
| School of Natural Resources | 6/29/2008 | Employee was bitten by a tick while working at a research site. | The employee was clearing bushes at a research site near Cambridge. The employee was wearing long pants and T shirts. The employee used bug spray with Deet. The employee noticed they had a bull's eye mark on their neck that became sore. The supervisor stated they would continue using Deet and would check for tick bites frequently throughout the day. |