

Chancellor's University Safety Committee (CUSC) Meeting
January 21, 2025 - 3:00-4:00 p.m.
EHS Training Room & Zoom

AGENDA

1. Introductions & Welcome (3:00 – 3:05 p.m.) Martha Morton
2. Old Business
 - A. Heads Up! posters update with UCOMM (3:05 – 3:10 p.m.) Jacob Sharrer
 - B. Other Old Business (3:10 – 3:15 p.m.)
3. New Business
 - A. Discuss Plan Ahead updates (e.g., Li Ion, EmerPrep) (3:15 – 3:20)
 - B. Emergency planning & preparedness (3:20 – 3:30 p.m.) Abby Schletzbaum
 - C. Resource: Samantha Link-Worker Protection Standard (3:30 – 3:40 p.m.)
 - D. 2nd Qtr. Injury Incidents/Near Misses (3:40 – 3:50 p.m.) Elizabeth Howe
 - E. Other new business (3:50 – 3:55 p.m.)
4. Reminder of next meeting & Adjourn Martha Morton

Meeting Schedule for 2024-2025 (EHS training room, Warehouse 1, East Campus and Zoom)

- March 25, 2025 (4th Tuesday to avoid spring break) - Open Forum
- May 20, 2025 (Injury/Illness report January-March 2025)
- July 15, 2025 (Injury/Illness report April-June 2025)

Goal FY 2024-2025:

Develop, review, and maintain lines of safety communication while fostering a culture of safety awareness, where everyone is encouraged to report “near misses” and unsafe practices. Use safety reports as lessons learned to share anonymously throughout the university to prevent reoccurrences/similar incidents.

Chancellor's University Safety Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes – January 21, 2025
3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

The January meeting was convened by Chair Martha Morton at 3:00 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

All attendees introduced themselves by name and the department/facility they represent.

Members In Attendance: Ron Bacon (Custodial Services), Eileen Bergt (Landscape Services), Rick Campos (FP&C Fire Inspector), Sandi Christofferson (Ag Research), Lindsey Chizinski (SNR), Kyle Hansen (CREC), Darren Johnson (ENREEC), Samantha Link (ARD Greenhouse), Mike Livingston (Agronomy & Horticulture), Barb McCain (Dining Svcs), Brent Morgan (Libraries), Marla Nissen (UNOPA), Deb Royal (Vet Diagnostic), Abby Schletzbaum (UNLPD), Stacie Ray (School of Education & Human Sciences), Zhiguang (Zach) Sun (NCMN), Xiaoshan Xu (Physics & Astronomy) and Max Wheeler (College of Engineering).

OLD BUSINESS

After the November CUSC meeting Jacob Sharrer, Chair of the Heads Up! review project, in consultation with Elizabeth Howe, determined that contact with UCOMM to set up a meeting to discuss updating the Heads Up! graphics would work better for all parties if pursued in January. Sandi Christofferson volunteered to assist Jacob with this project.

NEW BUSINESS

Update on Recent UNL Alert re: Architecture

While classes were still cancelled for the day on January 21, the recent UNL Alert was related to water and Architecture Hall due to a fire sprinkler freezing with a resultant pipe break. Rick Campos let the group know that when sprinklers go off the fire alarm automatically sounds. Upon investigation there was 3-4 ft of water behind a closed door leading into a steam tunnel. Fire code requires maintenance of 40°F ambient temperature to prevent the situation that arose with freezing pipes for the building sprinkler system.

Plan Ahead Graphics

In discussions after the last meeting, it was suggested that the group look at the current group of Plan Ahead graphics and decide whether to continue promoting the existing graphics and/or work with UCOMM to

develop new graphics, for example relating to lithium-ion battery safety/hazards, ladder safety, and emergency preparedness. Martha Morton requested membership think of safety topics, perhaps by reviewing injury incidents. Suggestions can be sent to Elizabeth Howe or Sandi Christofferson, and further discussion will occur at the March meeting based on topic suggestions received.

Sandi suggested one committee to work on both, but Jacob was not at the meeting to consult as to whether he would be willing to work on both Heads Up! and Plan Ahead. In the past UCOMM addressed each project separately as they clearly are two different types of topic/graphics. UCOMM can suggest topics for Heads Up! but the CUSC would need to provide topics for Plan Ahead graphics.

A few "Plan Ahead" graphics are online on a rotating basis. Currently posted examples may be viewed at <https://ehs.unl.edu/safety-resources/plan-ahead-graphics/>.

Emergency Planning & Preparedness

Abby Schletzbaum wanted the group to be aware that she can assist departments with continuity planning. Like today, departments never know when you need to shut down your operations quickly without knowing when you may be able to return, perhaps even for hours or days. There is not a Continuity Planning template online but Abby would be happy to send out one upon request and consult regarding the template's completion.

Resource - Worker Protection Standard

Samantha Link representing ARD Greenhouses provided a presentation about the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) training for about 400 users of greenhouses across UNL campuses. All greenhouses are kept locked and for access users need to take safety training. Training covers some "common sense" usage information but also specifics regarding application of pesticides. One example of a "common sense" item is to avoid areas being actively sprayed.

WPS training is mandated by EPA with an annual retraining requirement. After viewing a 20-minute EPA video, greenhouse personnel talk with those planning to use greenhouse space reiterating information such as that any time there is going to be/is spraying users are notified and signage is posted.

Injury Incident Reporting for 2nd Quarter 2024-2025

Elizabeth Howe noted that from October 1, 2024, through December 30, 2024, there were thirty-eight (38) First Reports of Injury (FRIs). 52.6% were classified as OSHA-

Recordable, considered more serious injury incidents. 5.3% of the injury incidents required workers to be off work or resulted in restricted duty for the worker.

These reports were sent to CUSC membership for review prior to the meeting. Elizabeth Howe asked those in attendance if there were any questions. There were none. Any questions that arise after the meeting can be sent to ehs@unl.edu to be addressed.

Other New Business

Elizabeth on behalf of Brenda Osthus told the group that, in addition to new regulations regarding methylene chloride use and storage, EPA has issued a final rule regulating manufacture, distribution and use of trichloroethylene, carbon tetrachloride and perchloroethylene. The EHS website Spotlight provides more information: <https://ehs.unl.edu/spotlight/> as well as links to forms designed to determine use and storage at UNL.

A form related to methylene chloride, <https://forms.office.com/r/CRMWnpgVBX>, should be completed by users. In addition to laboratory solvent/reagent, certain products such as paint strippers, adhesives, sealants and degreasers/cleaners can contain methylene chloride.

There is a second form online for completion if you are aware of or suspect use or storage of trichloroethylene, carbon tetrachloride or perchloroethylene or products containing these chemicals. Access the form here:

<https://forms.office.com/r/BCD70MtG3a>.

EHS will follow up on all submissions to assess each use individually and collaborate with the campus community to develop compliance plans.

CLOSING REMARKS

Martha Morton, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 3:28 pm. The next meeting will be on March 26, 2025.

Welcome to today's WPS Training Session

My name is Jeff Witkowski

The Greenhouse management team includes the following individuals:


Amy Hilske - Greenhouse Director


Donn Ladd - East Campus

Samantha - Link Beadle Center

Troy Pabst - Innovation Campus

Vincent Stoerger - Innovation Campus Phenotyping

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- ▶ Today I will be presenting WPS (Worker Protection Standards) training.
 - ▶ This training is mandated by the EPA and is required to be presented on a yearly basis for anyone who works inside the greenhouses.
 - ▶ Even though you are not actually mixing or applying pesticides, you are working in areas that have had pesticides applied, so this training applies to you.

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- ▶ The video will last about 20 min. after the video, I will go over and discuss the information presented and see if anyone has any questions.
 - ▶ The final section I will be discussing will include the “User guidelines for working in the Greenhouses.” This information is our guidelines here at the University that pertains to all of our greenhouse locations.
 - ▶ The overall guidelines will cover expectations regardless of location and how to work safely inside the greenhouses.

- ▶ One of the most important topics of this training video is when they talked about washing up when finished working with the plants/soils in the greenhouse.
- ▶ All the greenhouse locations have first aid kits, eye wash bottle stations, and showers in most of the bathrooms.
- ▶ All emergency contact information is posted at the different greenhouse locations.
- ▶ Please contact the greenhouse manger for your location if in need of immediate service

Pesticide notification and spraying:

- ▶ Notice will be sent out at the beginning of the week or noted on white boards about any upcoming pesticide applications.
- ▶ 12 hr. or 24 hr. REI's (Restricted Entry Interval)
- ▶ Signs will be posted on the doors.



- ▶ All pesticide applications will be announced in advance to allow for the notification to students/staff/faculty.
- ▶ Posting of pesticide signs will be attached to the doors/entrances at the time of the application.
- ▶ *Applications are always applied on Thursday's at 3:30 P.M. at the Beadle Center location.*
- ▶ East Campus applications are usually done on Fridays, but can be done on a as needed basis

User guidelines for working in the Greenhouses:

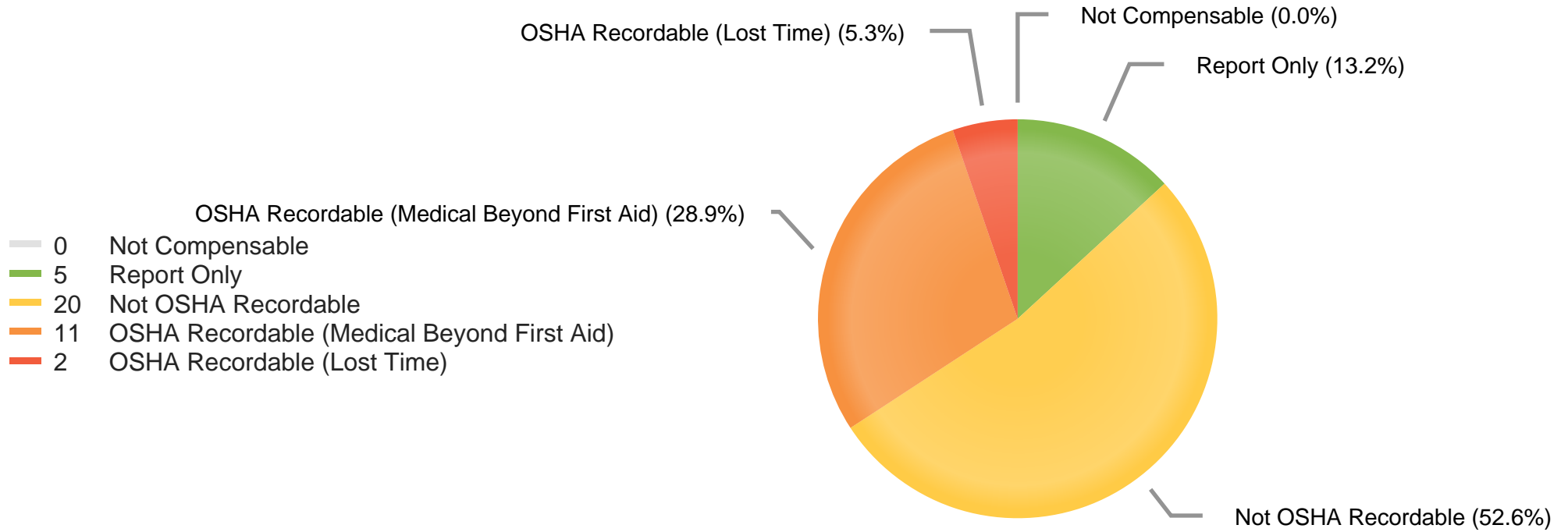
- ▶ No one should be working in the greenhouses unless they have attended the yearly WPS training and greenhouse orientation. Training sessions are provided several times throughout the year.
- ▶ Beadle Center / East Campus greenhouses have key card access, for Beadle Center see Samantha Link if you need **access** for the greenhouse areas, for East Campus see Jeff Witkowski or Donn Ladd. You will need to fill out this link [Building Access Request 2024](#)
- ▶ Do not prop open doors to the outside, this will affect the room temperature settings along with introducing unwanted pest issues.
- ▶ Closed toe shoes are required to be always worn in the greenhouses. Sandals or flip flop type footwear is not allowed to be worn inside the greenhouses.

- ▶ Tobacco products or their use in the greenhouses are prohibited.
- ▶ Bikes and skateboards use/storage inside the greenhouses are prohibited, please use UNL provided bike racks. For liability reasons, personal property cannot be stored in the greenhouses.
- ▶ Unless it is a service animal, no pets/animals are allowed in the greenhouses.
- ▶ Observe and obey all pesticide application signage and respect the REI requirements.
- ▶ Contact greenhouse staff immediately if you observe water leaks, heating/cooling issues, or other critical issues that need immediate attention.

- ▶ Do not turn off or change any lights, fans, or other mechanical/electrical control settings or switches. If changes need to be made per project protocols, please contact the greenhouse managers.
- ▶ Do not bring in outside plant material from home or the field. Check with the greenhouse managers before placing any plant material inside a greenhouse or growth chamber.
- ▶ Do not remove plant material for personal use; the plants growing in the greenhouses are for research, teaching, and extension purposes.
- ▶ Do not eat any fruit from the plant material grown in the greenhouses since pesticides are routinely applied. Do not eat food items inside the greenhouses or lab spaces.
- ▶ Do not drink or fill any water bottles from the garden hoses located inside the greenhouses/growth chambers. Pesticide residues maybe present.

- ▶ Do not throw gloves, tags, pots, trays, etc. into the compost bunkers. Only plants and soil should be disposed in these areas.
- ▶ Return all tools, carts, or other items you may have borrowed, cleaned and from where you found them. This includes work benches, or other general use work areas in the greenhouses.
- ▶ The greenhouse staff routinely comes through the greenhouses to do an intense cleaning. Please be considerate of other users and the greenhouse staff. If you make a mess, please clean up after yourself. There are brooms, squeegees, vacuums, etc. If you need anything just ask. We need to work tighter to be able to maintain a clean working environment in the greenhouses for everyone.
- ▶ ***Do not hesitate to contact campus police if you see something or someone that makes you feel unsafe for any reason***

Severity (Total : 38)
Start Date: 10/1/2024 - Stop Date: 12/31/2024



Event/Exposure By Employment Type (Total : 38)
Start Date: 10/1/2024 - Stop Date: 12/31/2024

