Safety Review and Approval Process for Research Proposals

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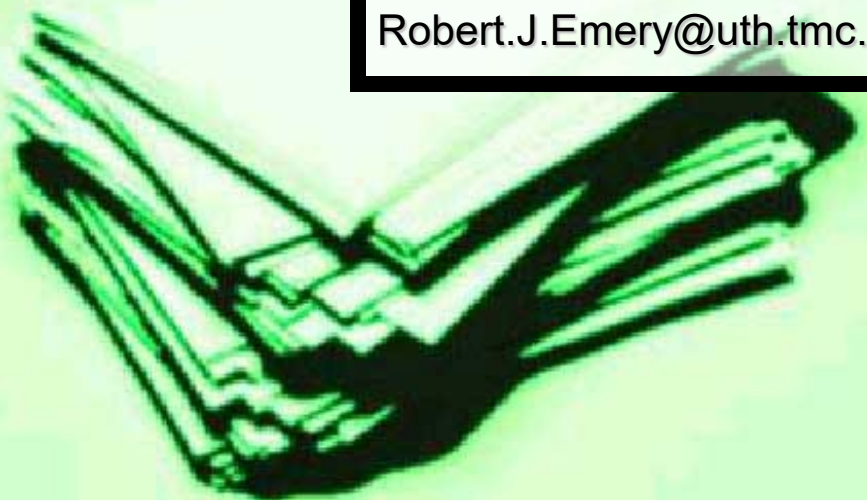

Objectives

- Provide a brief overview of the UTHealth Houston safety committee structure in place to oversee the use of hazardous materials
- Outline what hazardous materials require safety committee review and approval
- Describe how the process for protocol review and approval works
- Identify common pitfalls and how to avoid them
- Review your safety-related responsibilities

Main Possible Hazard Classes in Research Activities

- Biological agents
  - Recombinant DNA
  - Potentially infectious agents
  - Human tissues or cell lines
- Chemicals
  - Explosives, pyrophorics, toxins, highly toxic agents
  - Controlled substances
- Radiation
  - Radioactive materials
  - Radiation producing devices

UTHealth Houston Safety Committees

- Committee structure mimics hazard classes
  - Radiation Safety (meets 12/yr)
  - Biological Safety (meets 12/yr)
  - Chemical Safety (meets 6/yr)
  - Safety Council (meets 6/yr)
    - broad overarching committee, includes facility related safety as well as research
- Membership consists primarily of faculty, with support provided by EHS & other key support departments

Main Safety Committee Concerns

- Have hazards been acknowledged?
- How will they be handled?
- Are the people aware of the hazards (e.g. trained) and afforded protection (e.g. protective equipment, vaccines, etc)?
- Emergency response considerations?
- What about waste products?
- Documented?

EHS Approach

- Service attitude
- Help you meet requirements and maintain a safe work environment
- Provide initial review to identify common committee concerns and address them prior to the protocol going to committee

Common Pitfalls

- Need for approvals last minute
- Documented worker safety training attendance as required (lab safety, annual bloodborne pathogens, radiation safety, etc.)
- Inventories
- Review of previous surveillance results – ex. materials stacked too high in lab
- Despite these difficulties – EHS will work with you to provide a safe work environment and obtain approval for your research.

Your Responsibilities

- Maintain laboratory specific standard operating procedures
- Provide hazard specific training to your personnel
- EH&S maintains overarching general safety procedures and training
  - Safety manuals
  - Safety training – lab safety, bloodborne pathogens, etc.

EH&S - Contact Us Anytime!

- Main Office – OCB 1.330, 500-8100
- Biological Safety – OCB 1.330, 500-4193
- Chemical Safety – CYF, 500-5832
- Radiation Safety – CYF, 500-5840
- Environmental Protection – OCB/CYF, 500-5837 waste line
- Occupational Safety & Fire Prevention – OCB1.330, 500-8100
- Risk Management & Insurance – OCB 1.330, 500-8100
- www.uthouston.edu/safety