Risk Rankings for Schools & Departments

Over the past 3 months EH&S has been meeting with leadership from schools and departments campus-wide to evaluate and assess their EH&S risks. The exercise is connected to the roll-out of the EH&S service summaries developed for each school or department’s Environmental and Safety Compliance Officer (ESCO). These service summaries outline the most critical elements of the EH&S program. The services include Occupational & Fire Safety, Environmental, Environmental Public Health, Construction/Project Support, Emergency Management, Lab Safety, Biosafety, and Radiation Safety. Each summary itemizes ongoing tasks, roles and responsibilities, key metrics, department contacts and the program’s EH&S Risk “Heat” Map. The risk ranking exercise consists of an open discussion and review of the service summaries, followed by a live voting process using TurningPoint software to assess and plot the program’s relative risk. Participants voted on a scale of 1 to 5 (low to high) for each program’s impact, likelihood and management controls. Comparing risk, which is calculated by multiplying impact and likelihood, versus management controls allows us to see strengths and where we can improve for each program, as well as EH&S overall service. Once complete, the heat map provides a graphical representation of the EH&S program risks and the identification of where schools and departments need to focus their attention in order to mitigate safety and compliance risks. It also has proven to be an excellent opportunity for both EH&S and operational teams who discuss local EH&S programs issues. These sessions will be conducted throughout the remainder of 2013.

Annual Respirator Fit Testing

As part of our Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) program, each year the EH&S Department trains and provides individualized respirator “fit-tests” to approximately 200 medical students before they are assigned to hospitals for clerkships. While performing clinical rounds in hospital departments, our students must be prepared to protect themselves from aerosolized drugs during administration, airborne infectious diseases such as tuberculosis or influenza, and Emergency Department patients that may arrive contaminated with chemical, biological, or radiological agents. Advance training and respirator fit-testing of our students are critical parts of the Harvard-affiliated hospitals’ emergency preparedness plans and protection of our students that work in more than one dozen hospitals in the Boston area.

Mark Bennett, EH&S Safety Officer, working out of the Harvard Longwood office, led this effort again, as he has for many years. This year, he also trained several EH&S technicians to assist in the effort. Completing these sessions for all of our medical students requires specialized equipment, computers, respirators and testing adapters and over 120 hours of on-site time with students in the first quarter of each year. Students appreciate the skill and confidence they gain regarding appropriate use of respirators before the next phase of medical training with patients on hospital floors.

Mark Bennett
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Example of EH&S Risk Heat Map
**EH&S Project Support Team**

The EH&S Environmental Project Support and Remediation team provides our clients with services designed to help manage environmental risks associated with hazardous materials that may be present at project sites. The group is actively involved with over 90 projects on all University campuses. The team focuses on pre-planning in order to fully scope a project and develop a sound strategy for environmental protection. The team also coordinates EH&S’ comments on Capital Projects to ensure that input from all EH&S groups are considered. In addition to project support work, the team is also engaged on property transactions, identifying and qualifying disposal outlets and site remediation issues that may arise from time to time.

The highly experienced team, led by Kelly McQueeney, LSP, PE, LEED AP, includes Joe Meldrim, PE, LEED AP and Aaron Townsley, a recent hire from Woodard and Curran. The group provides services to our clients on a “fee for service basis”, providing Harvard specific project proposals similar to an external consultant, albeit with lower rates!

Recent projects that the team is engaged with include Tata Hall, Pound Hall, 32 Quincy, Batten Hall, Gordon Hall, and the House Renewal program.

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**A Day in the Life of an Emergency Responder**

It’s 2:40 AM on a cold Friday morning in December when Mark Collins, Associate Director of Occupational & Facilities Safety, hears his phone ring. Mark reaches into the darkness to find his glasses and phone. It’s as he suspected, the University Operations Center is calling. He answers and Operations Center Supervisor, Jim Power, tells him that several gallons of diesel fuel have spilled in the boiler room of one of the dorms. Duty calls and Mark is on his way.

This is a typical instance for the 37 members of EH&S’ Emergency Response Team, a group of health and safety experts who are on-call 24/7/365 to respond to any number of different emergencies that occur on Harvard’s campuses. Each year EH&S responds to approximately 150 emergencies including, but not limited to, fires, floods, occupational safety matters, infectious disease cases, foodborne illness investigations, biological safety issues, radiation-related incidents, and hazardous materials spills – spills like the one Mark Collins was responding to that morning.

As the sun begins to rise over Harvard, cleanup in the boiler room of the dorm continues. Mark calls in Lance Schumacher, EH&S Technician and Leader of the Hazardous Waste Program, to take over the cleanup operations which will continue for several more hours. Thankfully, the spill was contained before fuel leaked into the surrounding environment so no regulatory agencies needed to be notified. Also, damage to the boiler room and its equipment was minimal. But most important, no students living in the dorm were affected or put at risk due to the spill.

At the dorm, Mark works with the Facilities Maintenance Operations (FMO) Operator to contain the spill with oil absorbent pads and booms. Mark then contacts an environmental remediation company to assist with the cleanup and informs Gordon Reynolds, EH&S Director of Environmental Affairs and Project Support Services, of the incident in case any regulatory agencies need to be notified.

Mark leaves the dorm and heads into the office at 46 Blackstone Street, arriving just in time for his 9 AM staff meeting. It’s just another day in the life of an EH&S emergency responder.

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**Greg Brady**
EH&S Operations Manager
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Greg was recently promoted from Lab Safety Officer to EH&S Operations Manager. He will manage the EH&S Technicians, as well as the Emergency Response Team.

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**Kelly McQueeney**
Associate Director of Environmental Project Support Services
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New Faces at EH&S

Aaron Townsley
Environmental Project Manager

Timothy Brinkerhoff
Facilities Safety Officer

Jeff Myung
Construction Safety Officer

Michael Macrae
Environmental Engineer

EH&S By The Numbers:

Training Management System

- 59 Departments currently using the TMS
- 4427 trainees captured on lab rosters
- 2,213 users have taken online training since Launch on 12/12/12
- 15,483 total log-ins
- 2450 individuals have entered TMS
- 368 people took online training within 24 hours of “training due” email being sent

For further information on the Training Management System, please contact:

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We support the University’s mission of teaching and research by promoting a culture of safety, health, environmental protection, and emergency preparedness.