It’s been a busy year ...

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ACS Fall 2014 National Meeting, San Francisco, CA
• Legacy disposal project – over 10,000 lbs of hazardous waste
• Laboratory clean-out of 4 labs, a walk-in box and a storage locker – over 2,400 sq ft., 11,000 lbs of hazardous waste, a 35 foot trailer stuffed full
• Settlement agreement - including 675 Standard Operating Procedures & training required for about 300 Department employees
• Compliance inspections by EH&S and Fire Prevention Branch of the entire department, with corrective actions
• Development of four compliance programs
  – IIPP
  – PPE
  – EAP
  – Hazard Communication

*Plus the attendant small crises, fire alarms, odd questions, panicked grad students, co-worker support (”No, you can not choke a tenured Professor of Chemistry – even if that person richly deserves it.”), Campus colleague support, etc.*
Legacy Disposal Project

With financial support from the Provost’s Office, encouragement from the Chair, and excellent project support from the Hazardous Waste group at EH&S, over 10,000 lbs of hazardous waste was disposed. The 10X10 Class 1, Div 1 bunker was full of potentially explosive compounds, discovered during the clean out. It took about 6 months to get it all moved off campus.
Laboratory Clean-Out Project

At the request of the Fire Marshal, 4 labs, a walk-in box and a storage locker – over 2,400 sq ft. – were inspected by Fire Prevention and EH&S and determined to be out of compliance with Fire Code. 11,000 lbs of hazardous waste, 15 refrigerators & freezers, and a 35 foot trailer stuffed full of equipment and glassware was ultimately salvaged, re-purposed, or disposed.
On July 25, 2012, the Regents of the University of California entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Los Angeles County District Attorney which applied to the campuses of the University of California. Fundamentally, the Agreement required intentional and comprehensive compliance with the provisions of the Laboratory Standard.

- 675 SOPs developed
- Purchasing procedures for chemicals
- Over 300 Department employees trained
- Process for assuring training is accomplished for new employees
- Twice yearly attestation of compliance
EH&S and Fire Prevention Branch separately inspected the Department, with hundreds of corrective actions. Reduced number of Fire Code violations from over 150 in 2013 to about 75 in 2014.

Heading in the right direction!
Corrective actions were mostly minor and include items like insufficient clearance around electrical panels, improper labeling of chemicals, evacuation routes not posted, etc.

**Severity Level:** Minor  
**Resolution Deadline:** June 29, 2014  
**Building Emergency Evacuation Route not posted.**  
Emergency escape procedures and emergency escape route assignments must be included in the emergency action plan. Map of escape route shall be posted near exits.  
Finding Date: May 28, 2014 Resolution: Posted.  
Current emergency contacts and PI/supervisor contact are not posted at the laboratory entrance.  
The names or regular job titles of persons who can be contacted for further information or explanations during an emergency should be posted at the entrances to all laboratories.  
Finding Date: May 28, 2014 Resolution: Posted.  
Shelves are missing restraints to prevent items from falling.  
Shelves used for the storage of hazardous materials must have a lip or guard to reduce the potential for chemical spills during a seismic event. Chemical stored on a shelf without restraints.  
Finding Date: May 28, 2014 Resolution: Installed
• **Injury and Illness Prevention Program**  
  Didn’t quite exist
• **Personal Protective Equipment (LHAT)**  
  Settlement Agreement required  
  hazard assessment, PPE to be provided, and training
• **Emergency Action Plan**  
  How to account for some 600 people in 250,000 square feet?
• **Hazard Communication Program**  
  Staff had never had any training on any of these programs
Acknowledgements:

Our Department Chairs: Jackie Gervay-Hague (2012-13) and Susan Kauzlarich (2013-14)
Our long-suffering Chief Administrative Officer: Jessica Potts
Our intrepid Facility Manager: Michael Sisto
Ever-Supportive Safety Committee Chair: David Goodin
My colleague and counterpart at EH&S: Chris Jakober

To the Dispensary Staff and teaching staff: For tirelessly assuring the teaching labs are safe for everyone – students, staff, and TAs

And to the Graduate Students and Post Docs who do the day-to-day job of discovery research in quirky, 60-year old buildings – teaching and mentoring young scientists. All the while, staying safe and encouraging and supporting safe behavior in their colleagues.

I thank you!