THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Safety & Risk Services

#336 – 2389 Health Sciences Mall, Vancouver BC V6T 1Z3
Phone: 604-822-2029
WorkSafeBC Account # 11284

Standard Investigation Report

Incident ID: 133722 (Supervisor Report)

Incident Information

Incident Details, Description and Sequence of Events		
Incident Title: Biol 363 - Crayfish lab - Metabolic chamber		
Date: Jan 23, 2024	**Time:** 4:30 PM	**Building:** BIO - Biological Sciences Building
Description of Incident Location (please do not include personal information such as names, gender pronouns and medical information): 3rd year Biology students taking Biol 363. The room # is 4021.		
Main Body Part Injured: Fingers	**Side of main body part injured:** Right	**Secondary Body Part Injured:** No injuries
Accident Type: Rubbed, Abraded, Sharp Contact	**Injury Type:** Laceration (cut or torn skin)	**Serious injury/incident?:** No
Describe fully what happened before, during, and after the incident (please do not include personal information such as names, gender pronouns and medical information): Before incident: - 3 students were measuring the drop of O2 concentration in water in a glass metabolic chamber. The chamber was sealed by the mean of a clamp. The whole setup is placed inside large and wide plastic tray (whose walls are 6" all around). During the incident - The glass chamber started to crack. - Please note: this has never happened in our 30 years of doing these type of experiments on crayfishes, mice and frogs - Instructor immediately asked all three students to back off from the bench. - The glass chard dropped inside a large plastic tray (whose walls are 6" all around). The water spill and glass chard were contained in the large and wide plastic tray (described above). - Instructor started to remove the biggest glass shards to access the crayfish. - TA was holding the glass waste container as Instructor was putting the glass shards in. - Instructor was distracted and cut TA's middle finger with one of the shard. - They rinsed their hand with water, trying to make the cut bleed as much as possible. They are "pretty" sure that there is no glass left inside the wound. - A technician then put antibacterial cream and a bandage on the cut. - Please note that the technician has their OFA 1 but it expired. - Supervisor filling this incident report even though the cut is minimal, because the chamber contained a wild crayfish that has been housed in our controlled facility for at least 5 months (when our last collection in the Fraser river was done) .		

Accident Investigation

Task Related Causes
No "Task" Causes

Environment Related Causes
No "Environment" causes

Equipment Related Causes
No "Equipment" causes

Organizational Related Root Causes	
Poor Communication	

Human Related Root Causes	
Personal distraction	
Other human related causes: Instructor was distracted and did not communicate verbally with student	

Root cause
Incorporating the above factors, determine and describe the root cause of the incident or accident: Poor communication: - Right after TA brought the glass waste container, the instructor should have told the TA to back off before disposing the glass shards. - Please note that students were told to back off as soon as the glass chamber broke. Personal Distraction: - The focus was on the problem (removing the shard of glass to free the crayfish) and not the surroundings. - After reflection, this is because a) all the shards were contained in the tray (did not worry about students cutting themselves as they were asked to back off from their station); b) The TA is an experienced and extremely competent TA and not much verbal instruction was given as the junior TAs. - Instructor should have checked students and TA position once more BEFORE removing the glass shards.

Persons who carried out or participated in the investigation	
Employer representative name: Agnes Lacombe	
Job title: Associate Professor of Teaching	
Worker Representative Name: Joanne Denny	
Job title: Technician	

Corrective Actions

Corrective Action to prevent recurrence of similar incidents (1)

Corrective Action Identified:
SOP on what to do if students break glass during the laboratory sessions. 1- Right after glass is broken, students move 4 feet away from the location of the incident. 2- Students call one of the teachers, either the Teaching Assistant (TA) or the instructor. 3- The teacher ensures that all students have moved away from the location of the incident and reminds students to wait until the "all clear signal" to resume work at the location. 4- The teacher fetches the glass waste container, the sharpie container as well as the broom, small brushes and the dustpan. 5- The teacher removes the glass chard from the location and dispose of them safely. The big pieces of glass are disposed inside the glass waste container. The smaller shards are disposed in the sharpie container. Note: "Smaller chards" are determined visually by how easy it is to drop them safely the sharpies. 6- After all the broken glass has been removed safely removes from the location, students are allowed to resume their work.

Assigned to (name):	**Job title:**	
Agnes lacombe	Instructor	
Final Actions Taken: NA		
Date to be Completed: 2024-02-15	**Date Completed:** 2024-02-15	