Building a Safety Culture at NMT

Ruth Horowitz
Hazmat/Lab/Rad Safety Officer
Who is Responsible for Safety?

• Everyone!
• Safety is the responsibility of everyone on campus from the Regents to the President to the Division Directors, and Department Chairs, to the PI’s to the lab technicians and students.
Four Levels of Safety

• Institutional- Policies, procedures and guidelines
• Division/Bureau- Policies, procedures, and guidelines
• Laboratory-training matrices, standard operating procedures, PPE
• Individual- follow all of the above
HAZMAT Responsibilities

• Providing hazardous and radioactive waste disposal services.
• Providing guidance, consultations and technical assistance to departments, PI’s and lab workers.
• Creating and revising institutional safety programs.
• Reviewing department and lab policies and procedures, and providing feedback for divisions/bureaus/departments and PI’s.
• Basic safety trainings.
• How to guidance.
Best Management Practices

• Appoint a Department Safety Officer.
• Ensure there is a division/bureau/department Chemical Hygiene and/or Safety Plan as applicable.
• Ensure compliance with the plan/s.
• Ensure the Chemical Hygiene and/or Safety plan is reviewed and updated annually.
• Annual Division/Bureau/Department Safety training.
Why These Best Practices?

• Federal and State Regulations (OSHA)
  – NMAC 11.5.1 and NM Health and Safety Act

• Your Division/Bureau/Department Safety Plan will address specific issues related to your division/bureau/department and allows you to define division/bureau/department safety within the scope of the regulations.

• To promote the importance of safety and improve safety culture throughout your division/bureau/department
What is Safety Culture?

• **Safety culture** is the collection of the beliefs, perceptions and values that employees share in relation to risks within an organization, such as a workplace or community.

• Safety culture can be positive or negative.

• Who is responsible for creating a positive safety culture?

• Everyone!!!!
Building Positive Safety Culture in your Division/Bureau/Department

• Define safety responsibilities in your division/bureau/department. These should be outlined in your safety plan, as applicable.

• Create a training matrix for your division/bureau/department.

• Create and enforce a reporting policy for all accidents and near misses.

• Look for ways to prevent reoccurrences rather than lay blame.

• Celebrate Successes.
Next Steps 2019

• Set up a date to meet and go over your division/bureau/department safety needs.

• Appoint a division/bureau/department safety officer, where applicable, if you haven’t already done so.

• Set a completion date for your division/bureau/department safety plan.

• Enhance the safety culture in your division/bureau/department.
Next Steps 2020

• Create a division/bureau/department safety plan, which may include:
  – Hazardous Materials
  – Hazardous Equipment
  – Hazardous operations
  – Electrical Safety

• Create a division/bureau/department safety training matrix.

• Enhance the safety culture in your division/bureau/department.
Got Questions?

• When in doubt, ask
  – HAZMAT/Radiation/Lab Safety Officer

• Ruth Horowitz
  – ruth.horowitz@nmt.edu
  » 575-835-5842