

FY2010 Injury and Illness Narrative Summary

October 2009

- Chemist Post Doc Fellow – Laceration of finger
 - EE was disconnecting tubing from a condenser. The condenser broke from the forces applied and EE sustained small laceration.
- Custodian – Knee strain
 - EE was pivoting to reach for a waste container and felt burning sensation around the knee.

November 2009

- Truck Driver – Contusion of knee
 - EE tripped over an uneven floor joint while delivering a package.
 - The floor elevation reveal had been previously blocked by fixed equipment.
 - The building occupants had removed the fixed object but not addressed the trip hazard.
- Custodian – Upper extremity strain
 - EE had noticed pain in the upper extremities while performing routine custodial duties.
- Mechanical Engineering Tech – Laceration and fracture of finger
 - EE sustained laceration and fracture of finger while cutting a metal part on a band saw.
- Scientific Engineering Associate – Strain of upper extremities and neck
 - EE developed pain over a period of months after securing new bifocal glasses.
- Post Doc Physicist – Laceration to head
 - Tripped over unknown object while carrying a vacuum chamber and struck head on a forklift.
 - Ill-fitting glasses may have contributed to poor visual field.

December 2009

- Graduate Student Research Assistant – Repetitive strain of shoulder

- EE worked at optical microscope station, lab bench, and computer workstations for extended time periods without assessing ergonomic factors.
- Student Assistant – Thumb laceration
 - While washing a 2 L beaker, EE received laceration when a piece of glass broke from the rim.
- Illustrator – Contusion of knee
 - Tripped over walkway irregularity and fell on knee and hand.
- Chemist Research Scientist Engineer – Splinter in thumb
 - A silicon splinter penetrated EE’s thumb while picking up a silicon wafer.
- Insulator (construction subcontractor)
 - The subcontractor EE was caught between some HVAC ducting and the guard rail of the scissors lift aerial platform he was working from when he inadvertently activated the control lever that elevated the lift.

 **January 2010** 

- Guest Postdoctoral Fellow – Second degree burn of forearm
 - Employee spilled hot agarose gel on forearm.
- Principal Research Technician – Elbow and shoulder strain
 - Employee had developed discomfort and pain in the upper extremities in July of 2009 in response to pipetting and lab bench work. Subsequently a brief period of intense computer use in addition to the lab bench work worsened the condition.
- Computer Systems Engineer – Knee abrasion
 - While walking on the sidewalk from the J parking lot to building 50 the employee tripped and fell down.
- Carpenter – Back strain
 - The employee felt pain in the back while reaching around the back of a freezer to install anchoring bolts.
- Administrator – Back and neck strain
 - Employee slipped and fell on the restroom floor.
- Property Specialist – Back and shoulder strain
 - While sitting in workstation chair, the employee bent over and twisted slightly to retrieve material from a lower cabinet drawer. The chair tipped over and the employee fell to the floor.

- Computer Systems Engineer – Knee abrasion
 - Employee slipped and fell while walking on sidewalk by Building 17.
- Technical Property Manager – Ankle sprain
 - Employee’s foot wedged between the sidewalk edge and grass edge at Building 54.

 **February 2010** 

- Custodian – Lower back strain
 - Employee developed pain while lifting refuse bags.
- Carpenter – Shoulder strain
 - Employee felt pain sensation while hoisting a bucket of tools (using a rope) to the roof top work location. [December case reported in Feb.]
- Abatement Laborer – Contusion of Shoulder
 - While lowering sections of 3” metal conduit from overhead ceiling hangers, a section of conduit slipped from employee’s hands and struck shoulder.
- Purchasing Agent – Lower back strain
 - The exterior floor mat slipped (on standing rain water) underfoot while reaching to open exterior door to building, causing sudden bodily reaction to avoid falling, which strained lower back.
- Mech Eng Tech – Bilateral strain of wrists
 - Repetitive use of wrench on increased volume of machine maintenance.
- Mech Eng Tech – Strain of thoracic spine
 - Load shifted while team was moving cabinet up stairs on dolly causing sudden bodily reaction to prevent loss of load.
- Biologist Postdoc Fellow – Repetitive strain of upper extremities
 - Computer use increase due to shift from data acquisition to data analysis, combined with less than optimal workstation parameters, led to this injury.
- Regulatory Compliance Engineer – Ankle sprain
 - Employee misstep off curb while walking.
- Resource Analyst – Contusion on elbow
 - Rain-slickened sidewalk utility vault cover caused employee to slip and fall while walking to meeting on campus.

- Custodian – Ankle strain
 - The employee misjudged the last step down from stair landing due to darkness and a motorcycle being parked directly in front of the steps.

March 2010

- Chemist Postdoc Fellow – Repetitive strain of upper extremities
 - Employee struggled for a year with advancing cumulative trauma associated with intensive use of 2 computer work stations.
- Custodian – Strain of trunk and wrist
 - During performance of routine work duties.
- Construction Subcontractor Laborer – Lower back strain
 - While lifting and handling 80 lb window units.
- Research Assistant – Laceration (minor) to thumb
 - Cut by small metal tab of crimp cap on septum culture vial.
- Biologist Postdoc Fellow – Repetitive strain of upper extremities
 - Computer use increase due to shift from data acquisition to data analysis, combined with less than optimal workstation parameters, led to this injury.
- Material Handler – Abdominal muscle strain
 - While attempting to lift a load from floor level without properly “sizing up” the load.
- Plant Maintenance Technician – Strain of neck and back
 - Slipped while walking down roof access stairs at Building 6. Fell down approximately 10 stairs hitting his head, neck and upper back.
- Material Handler – Shoulder strain
 - Computer workstation was not properly adjusted after relocation which caused awkward reaching during mouse and keyboard use.
- Administrator – Tinnitus (ringing in ears) / ear discomfort
 - Experienced discomfort of ears after hearing loud noise while passing through pedestrian access under construction scaffold at building exit.
- Research Associate – Mouse bite
 - Bitten while placing animal back in cage.
- Postdoctoral Fellow – Neck and shoulder strain
 - Use of poorly configured computer workstation for extended periods while performing data analysis and developing presentation.

- Software Developer – Wrist strain (bilateral)
 - Performing routine keyboard and mouse at poorly configured workstation.
- EH&S Professional – Foreign object in eye
 - Windblown debris impinged on eye while inspecting scaffolding.
- Postdoctoral Fellow – Hand and wrist strain
 - Extended use of laptop computer in less than adequate workstation configuration.
- Facility Engineering Associate – Contusion on hand
 - Struck hand on concrete barrier during a fall after tripping over a wheel stop in parking lot.
- Administrative Assistant – Burn on thumb
 - Contacted hot roller surface with thumb while un-jamming badge laminator/printer.
- Lead Carpenter – Neck and lower back strain
 - Due to door mat slipping on wet surface as employee stepped on mat.
- Administrative Assistant – Wrist strain
 - Handling boxes of conference materials and use of micro computer.

 **April 2010** 

- Computer Systems Engineer – Finger strain
 - Associated with mouse use at computer workstation. (A case from 2009 that became recordable in April of 2010)
- Administrative Assistant – Wrist strain
 - Loading and unloading boxes of conference materials and using a micro computer.
- Electronics Engineer – Neck strain
 - Employee and co-worker were lifting a 50 lb oscilloscope. A hand cart was used where possible, but the box was lifted three separate times.
- Groundskeeper – Hand and wrist strain
 - While using a weed eater on sloped terrain the employee developed aching and tingling of the hand and wrist due to the combination of static force grip on accelerator trigger and vibration of the gas powered motor.

- Sr. Research Associate – Chemical irritation of eyes
 - Applying accelerated gel staining process heating polyacrylamide gels in a microwave oven while immersed in the GelCode Blue stain. Although safety glasses were worn, eye irritation was experienced when the materials were removed from the oven. The stain contains citric acid, a potential irritant. The employee wore soft contact lenses which may have prolonged the contact with the suspected irritant.

 **May 2010** 

- Custodian – Knee strain
 - While walking on level ground outside B64, the employee heard a ‘pop’ and felt a sharp knee pain.
- Truck Driver – Inhalation of solvents
 - While delivering packages and picking up material in B90, the employee became overcome by solvent odor (from painting in basement) and felt faint.
- Administrator – Contusion from falling against handrail
 - While traversing walkway step at B71P (trailers), the employee misstepped while looking up to find door number. The employee struck the railing with chest after losing balance.
- Chemist Divisional Fellow - Abrasion to eye
 - While attending a professional conference, the employee inadvertently flipped his conference badge (hanging from a neck band) into his eye.
- Truck Driver – Wrist strain
 - The employee felt a sharp pain in the wrist while grasping and lifting a box weighing approximately 40 lbs.
- Sr. Administrator – Muscle strain
 - The employee reported to Health Services for muscle discomfort after suffering a coughing spell associated with a janitorial product used in the building.
- Safety Engineering Specialist
 - The employee was sliding a tray into a cabinet when the spring loaded door closed and struck his left hand causing a laceration.

June 2010

- Custodian – Shoulder strain
 - Use of a wet vacuum with worn rollers caused strain of shoulder region.
- Custodian – Contusion of thumb
 - Due to construction site activity, the walkway was constricted and obstructed. Movement of the refuse barrel on the walkway became awkward and difficult to manage causing the thumb to be caught between the building wall and the barrel.
- Program Manager – Contusion of face and head
 - While walking on the stepping stone pathway (overgrown by the adjacent trees and bushes) leading to the ‘patio’ area between B62 and B66 the employee tripped and fell. The employee’s head struck a stepping stone.
- Program Manager – Repetitive strain of hands and forearms
 - While using desk and laptop computers for 8 to 10 hours per day at work and then additionally at home. Increased mousing requirements due to type of work.
- Program Manager – Repetitive strain hand and wrist
 - While using laptop and desktop computers. Frequent travel and extensive laptop use.
- Administrator – Strain / sprain of upper arm
 - While attempting to move an older typewriter from atop a shelf unit to place under a work table, the weight was more than expected. Sudden shift in position and weight of load led to a sharp back pain. The employee’s kinetic reaction led to the upper arm injury.
- Safety Engineering Specialist – Minor hand laceration
 - The self-closing door of a chemical storage cabinet struck employee’s hand while sliding a tray into the cabinet.
- Scientific Engineering Associate – Low voltage shock
 - The employee sensed a slight shock when his left hand touched both the metallic table surface and a terminal strip mounted on the table. – THIS IS A REPORT OF SHOCK ONLY - No treatment required – below hazard level.
- Chemist Postdoctoral Fellow – Eye Irritation, chemical
 - A 2” x 15” glass column shattered while using house air to pressurize it. Methylene chloride and 3% methanol sprayed into both eyes and onto the face. The employee also fell to the floor and sustained a small laceration on the right forearm. The employee used the lab’s emergency eyewash for 20 minutes before being treated at the ER.

- Human Resources Assistant – Repetitive strain hand and forearm
 - The employee was engaged in a special project using mouse intensive software.
- Truck Driver – Contusion of finger
 - While stepping down out of the cab of the truck and closing the door the driver's hand was struck by the closing door pinching the right middle finger.

July 2010

- Guest Postdoctoral Fellow – Laceration of leg
 - Rough metal burr under desk (from previous keyboard tray mounting hole) lacerated employee's thigh while brushing leg against surface under desk.
- General Guest (Security) – Laceration of head
 - Employee struck back of head on protruding dumpster part after bending down to pick up refuse that had fallen outside the bin.
- General Guest (Security) – Trauma to lower trunk
 - As the employee was exiting a vehicle, the vehicle began to roll backward. While trying to stop the vehicle the employee's body was subjected to extreme torsional forces.
- Writer/editor – Repetitive strain of both wrists
 - Due to heavy work load and extended hours of use of mouse and keyboard.
- Physicist Staff Scientist/Engineer – Repetitive strain of elbow (first aid case in May – became recordable in July)
 - Due to continued use of several different awkward computer workstations in the laboratory environment.
- Mechanical Engineering Tech - Avulsion (cut) on forearm
 - While reaching behind a metal lathe to remove debris the employee's wrist caught on a drill bit causing the injury.
- Student Assistant – Laceration of fingers
 - While carrying a 2 foot by 2 foot pane of glass.
- Marketing Publications Writer – Ankle sprain
 - The employee slipped on tree leaves/nuts while walking down F2 Road (down to Blackberry parking 'pit').

- Mechanical Engineering Tech – Strain of lumbar spine
 - While reaching across seat of truck to remove a rigging device.
- Executive Assistant – Repetitive strain of thumb
 - Attributed to mouse clicking associated with computer use.
- Student Assistant – Chemical exposure to face
 - The employee was heating a three neck flash which contained an amine and oleic acid. As it was cooling down the glass stopper failed and a slight amount of the solution splashed in his face below his safety glasses.

August 2010

- Student Assistant – Strain/sprain of ankles, bruises
 - While quickly going down ATM stairs, was holding wallet in hands. Fell from upper step and landed on hands on landing at bottom of steps.
- Biologist Research Sci/Eng – Repetitive strain of neck and shoulder region
 - Associated with intensive pipetting.
- Computer Systems Engineer – Contusion on head
 - While passing through a small door, his bag slipped, which cause him to straighten up and he bumped his head.
- Safety Engineer – Foreign body in left eye
 - While in the office, something flew into his left eye and then apparently fell out without intervention.
- Grad Student Research Assistant – Bruised forehead
 - Employee pushed door open, and when it did not open as wide as anticipated, he hit head against door.
- Facility Electrical Engineer – Sprain / strain of ankle
 - Slipped on loose gravel (from road repaving) on walkway along McMillan Road.
- Administrative Assistant – Puncture of finger
 - Received staple puncture of finger that became infected.
- Senior Research Associate – Lacerated finger
 - While reaching into a box she encountered broken glass that had fallen into box or been disposed of there improperly.
- Graduate Student Research Asst – Scratched fingers
 - While opening the inner glass door of a new incubator, the glass shattered and the falling glass scratched employees fingers.

- Pr. Subcontracts Administrator – Repetitive strain of hand
 - Attributed to heavy keyboard and mouse use.

September 2010

- Requisitions Assistant – Burn of finger
 - While clearing paper jam in fax machine, employee's finger contacted hot roller and suffered a blister (2nd degree burn).
- Material Specialist – Sprain and strain of left ankle joint
 - The employee's office chair rolls very easily on the smooth cement floor. To stand up from the chair, he propels himself vigorously forward and out of the chair. That quick movement required contributed to the employee turning his ankle and falling.
- Biologist Research Scientist/Engineer – Bilateral strain to cervical spine
 - The employee developed a severe neck strain after working long hours at a microscope that had been moved to a laboratory bench that did not allow ergonomically sustainable position.
- Student Assistant – Strained right knee joint
 - The employee slipped on steeply sloped, fog-dampened pavement in parking lot with some oil sheen while walking to work and strained right knee. There was no oil spill, just some drips from parked vehicles.
- Groundskeeper – Burn to right forearm
 - The employee burned the forearm on a hot exhaust while lifting a lawnmower into a pickup truck.
- Administrator – Multiple strains
 - The employee was sitting down at workstation. The chair slipped out from under the employee causing fall to floor. Putting weight on the edge of the extended chair pan caused the chair to pivot forward and roll out from under the employee. The chair tipped completely over as the employee fell to the floor.
- Carpenter – Laceration right 5th finger
 - While moving Steelcase desk parts, some of the parts were leaning vertically against a wall. As one of these pieces began to fall over, the employee tried to catch it and it caught his right little finger causing a minor cut.

- Distributed Purchasing Agent – Strain, right elbow
 - The employee suffered an injury due to multiple ergonomic issues. The mouse was too far from the body, and the phone handset was cradled between neck and shoulder while speaking on the telephone. The back of chair was missing bolts.
- Chemist PostDoc Fellow – Fractured right foot, sprained left ankle
 - The employee and colleague were in conversation while getting off shuttle bus. The employee had turned to look back at her colleague as she was descending the 3 steps down to exit. Her foot slipped over the edge of the 2nd step and she lost her balance. She landed awkwardly on the ground with the right foot rolling/twisting under her weight. The left foot was additionally traumatized trying to catch balance. She was not using the vertical grab bar at the edge of the bus door opening.
- Physicist Research Scientist/Engineer – Strain, left ankle
 - While descending stairwell the employee thought he was on the last step at the bottom of the staircase but was actually on the second to last step. He missed the last step, and strained the left ankle.
- Mechanical Engineering Associate – Health Screening
 - The employee worked adjacent to the tunneling process at Yucca Mountain during the 1990's. The employee is now monitored through medical surveillance program.