

CAHNRS Safety Meeting Minutes

11 September, 2012

Hulbert 409, 11:10 AM

Attended By:	John Rumph	CSS
	Dory Lohrey-Birch	Entomology/Food Science
	Ben Weller	SES
	Bruce Davitt	SOE (NRS)
	Daniel Edge-Garza	Hort/LA
	Dennis Gransbery	USDA-ARS
	Mike Costa	1BC
	Dmitri Mavrodi	Plant Pathology
	Hang Lin	AMDT
	Rich Villa	PAB/An Sci
	Sheila Brooks	ARC
	Carl Libby	Mt. Vernon

The meeting was called to order by John Rumph at 11:10

The May meeting minutes were not read.

Rich Villa reviewed the September University Health and Safety meeting with the committee. To note: The recent arsons are waiting on results of the investigation to see if the 3<sup>rd</sup> instance is related to the first two. The Alive program is actively encouraging students to use the crosswalks and associated flashers. The "Truck Route" signage needs to be better.

Daniel Edge-Garza presented his report on the Evacuation drills that were held for Johnson Hall. A copy of his report is attached. He will check on strobe lights for the hallways to alert people. Dennis Gransbery indicated that a safe refuge area for people unable to use the stairs is in the stairwells. Ryan Gerring is reviewing the fire alarms in Johnson Hall.

Daniel Edge-Garza proposed putting a 4-way stop sign at the intersection of NE North Fairway Road and Fairway Lane. He indicated that it is difficult for drivers north bound on Fairway Lane to see oncoming traffic from East bound North Fairway Road, especially with students in the crosswalk.

Parking the day of football games was discussed to facilitate access by researchers to essential lab programs and a solution is being worked on.

During the open discussion, John Rumph brought up the fact that the January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting was the same day as the University Health and Safety Committee meeting. The meeting will be moved to January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Daniel Edge-Garza moved to adjourn and Bruce Davitt seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.

## Summary of Evacuation Drills

Johnson Hall – Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Both Johnson Hall and Johnson Hall Annex (same alarm system) were evacuated. This included two classrooms: Rita Abi-Ghanem's Soils 531 class ("Soil Microbiology" with 11 students and Jun (Martin) Ma's Econs 101 class ("Fundamentals of Microeconomics" with 209 students); four departments: Horticulture, Crop and Soil Sciences, Plant Pathology, and the School of Environment; and five ARS extension centers. As the Johnson Hall business center and other office staff were attending an appreciation luncheon at the Ensminger Pavilion, they were unable to participate in the drill. Both sides of the building were completely evacuated in less than 2 ½ minutes.

Observers included: Charles Wildey, Terrence Rowland Jr., Sheila Brooks, Karen Hansen, Bruce Davitt, Dennis Gransbery, Ben Weller, Sujeet Verma, and Alan Love

### Observations:

1. The classrooms were directed across Wilson road to the meeting area outside of French Administration/Lighty. Excellent distance!
2. Some faculty exiting the south side met near the south east parking lot. Good distance.
3. As some people began to stop between Johnson Hall proper and the annex, they were directed by other occupants to move further from both buildings.
4. Many exiting the north side of the building remained in the parking lot. This is too close to the building. A few faculty were "hugging" the stairwells. Others were scattered about and didn't seem organized.
5. Some of the evacuees misunderstood the evacuation signs (used to alert non-occupants Johnson Hall to the drill) to be a meeting area.
6. One person was going for the bathroom, but after seeing the observer's expression, understood to leave.
7. There are no strobe lights (or other visual effects of the alarm system). We do have occupants that have hearing deficiencies. Usually, these employees/students take cues from everyone else leaving the building; however, if any employees or students regularly work alone, each department should review their buddy system to ensure that these employees/students make it safely out of the building.
8. Some of the fire bells of the alarm system did not sound during the drill: notably the ground floor south main corridor (half-way down; the center bell) and the alarm bell of the post-harvest rooms on the northwest corner, ground floor. I contacted the Life Safety sub-department of Facilities and Operations and left a message with Ryan Gehring to have these alarm bells serviced.
9. The audible alarms do not reach well to the ground floor walk-way between Johnson Hall proper and Johnson Hall Annex. There is no bell in this region of the building. Other areas of Johnson Hall have reduced audible notification; however, these areas could be due to item #5.

10. Some of the occupants of Johnson Hall continued to work after the alarm sounded and had to be asked to leave the building after about a minute. Some approached me afterwards and said had they not known a drill was going to occur that day, they would not have recognized the alarm as a “fire” alarm. Descriptions of the alarm’s sound (like a school bell, in this case) to each new employee and periodic drills, such as these, help reinforce reaction to the alarm.
11. The USDA/ARS role-played with 911 WhitCom to simulate a refuge area evacuation. 911 WhitCom said the role-play went well. A buddy system was used and the “buddy” called 911 to inform them that a “disabled employee” was with them in the refuge area.
12. Some of the evacuees mentioned that they did not know when to re-enter the building. Some of them thought the re-entry could occur upon silencing the fire alarm. For this drill, we allowed them to re-enter upon silencing the alarm, but it may not be safe to re-enter during a real emergency. Floor captains could relay an “all-clear” signal to the occupants to inform them when it is safe to re-enter in a real emergency. Johnson Hall currently doesn’t have floor captains for all floors. During the drill, the observers informed the employees/students when they could re-enter.

Vogel Plant Biosciences – Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

No classrooms were evacuated from Vogel during this drill. We *did* change the drill up a little and simulated a fire on the first floor kitchen area. A huge sign was hung from the ceiling indicating that smoke was covering the south-side exit, and flames were located to the right by all the plants.

Observers: Sujeet Verma, Terrence Rowland Jr., Sheila Brooks, and Dennis Gransbery

Observations:

1. Evacuees exited from the building from both sides in under 3 ½ minutes.
2. Some of the occupants were reminded to move away from the steps leading up to the main north entrance and move at least 75 feet from the building.
3. A few south side evacuees were reminded to move further from the building.
4. Role-play was coordinated with Pullman Transit, the bus stop was moved to the Life Sciences building, and floor captains directed the students there for the duration of the drill.
5. After sweeping the floors, the floor captains exited, but a student was left behind. This student, on the first floor, was on the north side, but crossed the building to the south side, moved the simulated flames out of the way and exited the south stairwell.
6. One of the observers stated that an employee was finishing up loading a gel, went to an area he couldn’t see, and came out with two more people to exit the building.
7. One group did not know if they should try to make their way to the other side of the building to their “usual” meeting area, but after realizing that everyone from their group would have exited the same way due to the “fire” blocking their usual exit, they no longer saw the need to walk around and learned that alternate meeting areas worked well.