

CRITIQUE SUMMARY

Critique No.: 2006 - 03

Date of Critique: July 11, 2006

Critique Leader: M. Zarcone

Meeting Participants: Mike Zarcone (Facilitator), Barbara Moebes (Scribe), Ron Gill, Steve Shapiro, Bob Liegel, Brant Johnson, Kyle Cranmer, Jackie Mooney, Susan Duffin, Mohammad Ali

Brief Event Description:

A Senior Administrative Services Assistant (SASA) caught her foot on a mat in her office and fell when she was trying to clean up a number of bugs in her office.

Reference Materials (e.g., work procedures, written statements, etc.):

None.

RELEVANT FACTS AND DATA ASSOCIATED WITH THE EVENT

(e.g. event chronology, work activities at variance with governing documentation, etc.)

1. A number of bugs especially earwigs (*Forficula auricularia*) were reported to the Building Manager in Building 510 in two of the hallways and in some of the rooms in those hallways since the rainy period in June.
2. About two weeks prior to the accident, a number of earwigs (20-30) were discovered in the hallway wall, door, floor and desk top of Room 1-71 and an exterminator was called by the Building Manager. On Wednesday, June 28, 2006 Plant Engineering (PE) sprayed SASA's office. On Thursday, June 29, 2006, SASA requested PE to return and spray again. PE did not come. After spraying, this room was not cleaned to remove the dead bugs. (This office had previously reported having ants in May.)
3. On July 5, 2006 (following the Lab holidays from 06/30/06) at approximately 9:00 a.m., SASA arrived at her office to find a number of earwigs on the floor and desk top. Some of the earwigs looked dead but some were moving.
4. SASA started to clean up bugs with a small hand broom and moved the floor mat to facilitate it. The mat (a rubber-backed carpeted type typically used under rolling desk chairs) was moved to the northwest corner of the room (crumpled up) and more earwigs were discovered.
5. As SASA went over to turn on a fan, she caught her left foot in the folds of the hard rubber mat, her foot twisted, and the SASA lost her balance and fell between the black file cabinets and a door to the adjacent office.
6. An employee (Emp#1) heard a crashing sound and a shriek. Emp#1 went to find the SASA sitting on the floor, partially on mat (flipped up part). Her supervisor also arrived on the scene along with another employee.
7. SASA said her foot was hurting and asked for an ice pack. Within minutes Emp#1 helped SASA up but she couldn't put any weight on her foot/ankle, and was helped into her chair.
8. People looked for an ice pack and then one of them contacted the OMC for an ice pack. The OMC advised them to bring SASA to the clinic. OMC offered to transport her via an ambulance. SASA said no to an ambulance. Another employee found an ice pack within 3 or 4 minutes and brought it to the injured person who applied it to her ankle.
9. At the suggestion of one of the people on the scene, SASA was wheeled to the front door of the Physics Building in her chair. SASA moved to the curb to get into the car, driven by another employee, to go to the OMC. ES&H Coordinator followed and met them at the OMC.
10. The clinic was critical of her shoes. SASA was wearing sandals – slip on shoes with a single strap over her foot, no heel with an approximately one inch sole. The SASA was advised by OMC to keep her foot raised for 48

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hours. OMC also suggested that SASA arrive back to work the next day for an evaluation. The nurse also stated that if SASA did not return to OMC the following day, the clock (days since the last lost time accident) would be set back. OMC sent SASA home with crutches. Two other Physics Department employees drove SASA home.

ANALYSIS OF RELEVANT FACTS AND DATA:

Probable Causal Factors:

Root Cause – Bugs in office

Contributing Causes

1. Mat
2. SASA cleaning up

Recommended Corrective Actions:

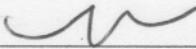
1. Explain incident at Department meeting and talk about mats in office; casters on chairs. Talk about bugs in office – what to do – advise Building Manager and custodians. Remind people to call the OMC for injuries whether or not it is a DART case or recordable.
2. Remove carpet in office (Completed 7/17/06) and get rubber wheels for chair.

Recommended Lessons Learned:

There does not seem to be a lesson specific to this incident that should be disseminated across the lab other than one of general awareness and attention to the task you are performing.

Signature:

M. Zarcone
Critique Leader



July 17, 2006
Date