

**COMMITTEE ON CHEMICAL SAFETY
SAFE PRACTICES SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES
NEW ORLEANS, MARCH 22, 2003**

Present: Russ Phifer (Sub-committee Chair), Paul Schickedantz, Bob Alaimo, Michael Cournoyer, Harry Elston, Barbara Foster, Art Marcinkowsky, Steve Sichak.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Mercury Spills booklet has undergone review and changes as the result of review by both sub-committee members and members of the CCS/CEI Task Force on Environmental Health & Safety. Aside from minor text and format editing it is ready for web publication. Russ will discuss the logistics with Larry Funke and Ralph Stuart.

NEW BUSINESS:

The subcommittee briefly reviewed the Greener Chemistry Undergraduate Lab Experiment manual and expressed concern over the safety of at least one experiment, which called for microwaving of a material containing xylene. We felt additional information on the safety associated with microwaving flammable hydrocarbons should be considered; at the very least the use of an intrinsically safe microwave should be noted. Michael will more thoroughly review the document prior to discussion at the full committee meeting on Monday.

Michael asked if anyone had experience with isopropyl alcohol as a peroxide former. He noted that he has documented several instances of peroxide formation, and is seeking additional information which may form the substance of a policy statement on this issue. Members will investigate this on their own and we will reconsider the issue at the New York subcommittee meeting in September.

Barbara asked if anyone had information on building codes that might require fire extinguishers to be placed outside of laboratories instead of inside. Members are to review regulatory requirements and consider recommendations which are to be sent to Barbara prior to the New York meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Russell Phifer, Subcommittee Chair