

Florida International University

Safety Initiatives

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Key Lessons on Safety Culture

1. Training is necessary but not sufficient
2. Safety lapses often come from more experienced faculty rather than from junior faculty because of overconfidence developed through many years of experience
3. There needs to be Institutional clarity for final safety decisions
4. Routine and familiarity can breed complacency
5. Lab Safety is component or larger institutional safety culture

FIU Actions From APLU Safety Culture Guide

1. President creates University Safety Council (Recommendations 1 & 2)
2. Safety Council chaired by President Chief of Staff (meets quarterly, at least twice with President)
3. Creation of new Chemical/Lab Safety Committee
4. Safety Council membership
 - President Office
 - Vice Provost
 - VP Student Affairs
 - Chair Faculty Senate
 - General Counsel (+)
 - Head of HR (+)
 - Director EH&S
 - Head of Internal Audit
 - Head Facilities (+)
 - Police Chief
 - Head of Finances (+)
 - Custodial Services
 - VPR (+)
 - Research Integrity
 - Chairs of IRB, IACUC, IBC
 - President Student Gov.

Key Roles of Safety Council(Recom. 3-12)

1. Establish shared mission of safety
2. Align all existing safety committees and policies
3. Develop Employee Safety Incentive/Reward System
4. Establish safety communication system
5. Establish ongoing safety related audits (Continuous Improvement)
6. Develop system for incident reporting
7. Coordinate with Miami Fire Rescue

Comprehensive Emergency Management

1. Initiated quarterly “Table Top Exercises” of Command and General Emergency Management staff
2. Initial exercises focused on hurricane related incidents
3. Overtime, exercises have included safety related incidents
4. Currently exercises are unplanned, with a few minutes notice
5. There is an Emergency Operations Command Operations Group

Comprehensive Emergency Management

