Disseminating Biosafety Information to Non-scientists

60th Annual Biological Safety Conference
ABSA International
Albuquerque, NM
October 13-18, 2017
Hi,
I'm your Biosafety Officer.

I have some questions.
Non-scientific Staff Includes

- Maintenance
- Warehouse
- Management
- Other
- Office
Case Study #1

BACKGROUND

• Newly built BSL-3 laboratories, BS&S program starting.
• Maintenance of laboratory was performed by an independent contractor hired to service the BSL-3 laboratory.
• The independent contracting staff did include a safety officer on-site but no biological safety officer was on regular lab staff.
• The independent contractor staff had limited access to the BSL-3 BSO.
• The initial concern was for the safety of the workers that needed to enter the BSL-3 space to conduct maintenance operations.
Case Study #1: Questions asked by non-scientific staff

- What types of safety controls are used within the lab?
- If the lab is cleaned, why do we have to wear PPE?
- What elements are in place that ensure that scientists follow all lab safety policies?
- If we’re not working with agents and the lab is cleaned, why do we have to wear respirators?
- If we’re not working with agents and the lab is cleaned, why do we have to have vaccines?
To develop a strategy for understanding the level of comprehension and specific concerns of particular audiences of non-scientists in order to create and disseminate information tailored specifically to address their needs.
Work Plan

- Meet with job site managers
- Identify concerns of non-scientist personnel

STEP 1

STEP 2

Tailored Training Materials and Training
Tailored Training for Case Study #1

• 3-day initial training event

• Topics covered included:
  – An Overview of Basic Laboratory Safety
  – Health Management
  – Preparing Laboratories for Maintenance Work
  – Laboratory Orientation
  – Emergency Response and Risk Management
  – Bloodborne Pathogens
  – Hazardous Material Safety
  – BSL-3 Entry and Exit Requirements
  – Introduction to PPE

• Questions asked in the initial visit were addressed at this time

Additionally:

• Developed Biosafety Manual specific for the non-scientists

• Annual refresher training
Case Study #2

BACKGROUND

• An independent BSL-2 laboratory was acquired, moved, and retro-fitted into an existing lab within a distribution center.

• The BSO from the original BSL-2 laboratory had moved from the acquired lab to the new building.

• The initial concern was that the warehouse and office staff were not comfortable with the addition of a laboratory to their space.

• Marketing problem?
Case Study #2: Questions asked by non-scientific staff

- Why do the scientist work in the cabinet?
- I’ve been sick since the lab arrived, am I getting sick from the lab?
- How are viruses transmitted?
- Why have so many of my co-workers been sick this winter? But the scientist working in the lab aren’t getting sick?
- How do I know the scientists clean properly?
- If I catch virus from the lab will I turn into a zombie?
Work Plan

**STEP 1**
- Meet with job site managers
- Identify concerns of non-scientist personnel

**STEP 2**
Biosafety Assessment, Tailored Training Materials and Training
Case Studies Objective

To develop a strategy for understanding the level of comprehension and specific concerns of particular audiences of non-scientists in order to create and disseminate information tailored specifically to address their needs.
Tailored Training for Case Study #2

- A biosafety assessment was conducted of the new lab space
- Training event was held
  - Presented results of biosafety assessment
  - Encourage trainees to check out ABSA International website
- Pre- and post questionnaires

Additionally,
- Annual refresher training
Was this approach effective?

http://numanetworks.com/small-business-it-support/
IN CONCLUSION

Knowing your audience, and the concerns of your audience, allows for delivery of more **effective** and **relevant** information and training to the non-scientists.
Zombie Preparedness
THANK YOU
Get in touch and share your thoughts

CONTACT US
Lolly Gardiner, MBA, RBP, SM (NRCM), CBSP

- 65 West Watkins Mill Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20878
- 720-518-735
- lgardiner@mriglobal.org