Present:  Rick DuVall, Mike Logan, Bob Lucht, Peter Meckl, Marty Mlynarik, Bobbie Riley, Becky Schumm, Justin Seipel, John Starkey, Justin Weibel

Absent: Mike Sherwood, Nathan Toner

1. Approve Minutes from March 27, 2014 Meeting

2. Discuss Lessons Learned Incident:

On April 24, a student working in POTR spilled some Zirconium powder. When he tried to clean it up with a vacuum cleaner, the powder ignited and burned the vacuum cleaner filter, causing a small fire and lots of smoke. A Lessons Learned incident report was filed. Earlier in the year, another student also experienced a Zirconium fire in ARMS. As a result, REM has put together a document for Standard Operating Procedures when working with Zirconium powder. See link below:

http://www.purdue.edu/ehps/rem/home/sops/sopzirconium.docx

Due to the serious consequences of such a fire, the committee felt that these precautions and standard operating procedures should be widely disseminated, on the ME Safety website, and perhaps via a periodic (quarterly) safety email alerting ME personnel of any pertinent safety issues.

One committee member questioned whether the faculty member advising the student had done his/her due diligence in documenting the use of Zirconium powder on the Integrated Safety Plan Self-Audit Forms. Another wondered why other metals besides Zirconium (e.g., magnesium) did not also have their own Standard Operating Procedures documents.

3. Discuss Emergency Preparedness:

The president hosted a panel discussing Emergency Preparedness on April 30. Much attention was focused on how alerts of any emergencies are pushed to Purdue personnel. They encouraged everyone to sign up to get Purdue Alerts on their cellphones. A smart phone app is also available and so is a twitter feed. In addition, messages are broadcast on the Purdue homepage. An alternative that was recommended for large classrooms was a so-called Alertus Beacon, which would attach to the wall and flash and sound an alarm with a custom message describing the emergency.

One challenge in receiving text messages is that not all ME rooms get good cell coverage. Repeaters could be installed throughout the building but that would be expensive. Mike Logan will check on potential solutions.

The committee suggested another possibility would be to install a public address system with speakers in hallways and classrooms.

Some committee members asked about locking classroom doors. As comforting as such a proposition might be, the expense to change the locking mechanisms on all classroom doors to permit them to be easily locked from the inside would be very expensive.

4. Discuss Ideas for Drains to Flush Eyewashes:

Marty Mlynarik suggested some ideas for easily draining water from eyewashes during flushing. The proposed solution consists of several pipes and elbows; total expense is about $13 per installation. Peter Meckl will chat with Jim Schweitzer on whether REM will help with installation since regular eyewash flushing was recommended in the recent Safety Indemnification for ME.

5. Schedule Next Meeting:

Next meeting will be at 2:30 pm on July 31, 2014. (Rescheduled for July 31, 2014.)