



College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine (Edinburgh bioQuarter Campus)

Incident Analyses

Reported incidents from 01st January 2023 to 31st December 2023

1. Introduction:

This is the seventeenth annual report of analyses of injuries, occurrences and near-miss incidents reported to the University's centrally-based Health & Safety Department, drawing upon data pertaining specifically to the College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine's activities on the Edinburgh bioQuarter campus.

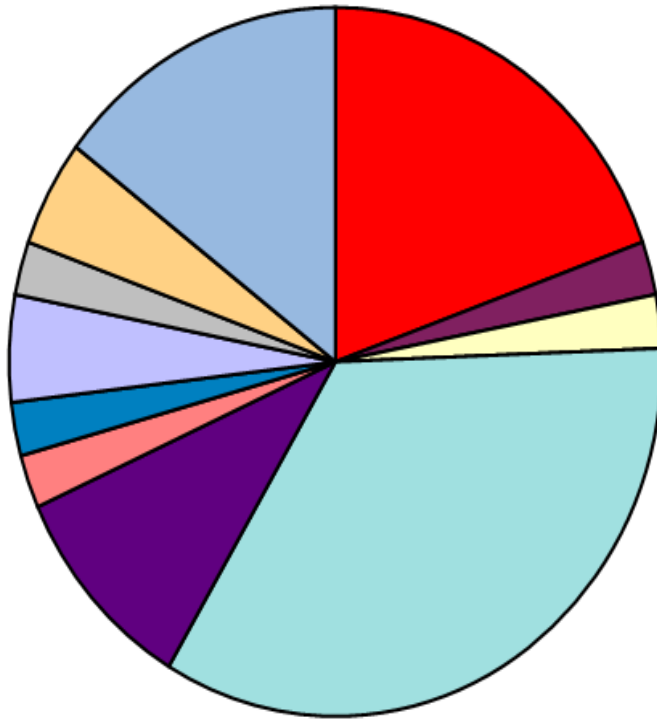
The Health & Safety Manager is grateful to all who throughout the year have conscientiously reported occurrences, whether resulting in actual injury or not, since near-miss reports too may well have resulted in steps being taken to further enhance safety standards and the development of safer systems of work.

Those matters that have been classified as "Exempt" below include accidents experienced by colleagues engaged in activities at locations other than on the Edinburgh bioQuarter campus and manifestations of illness unconnected with work, but which resulted in symptoms developing within the workplace.

2. Nature of Injury:

| | |
|--|----|
| Injuries caused by striking against or being struck by an object | 8 |
| Falls (on stairs or level surface) | 1 |
| Poisoning/Infection | 1 |
| Injuries associated with glass, other sharps, and needle-stick | 14 |
| Spillages/Releases | 4 |
| Hot/Cold Contact | 1 |
| Electricity | 1 |
| Animals | 2 |
| Explosions | 1* |
| Handling | 2 |
| Other/Exempt | 6 |

Nature of Injury



- Injuries caused by striking against or being struck by an object
- Falls (on stairs or level surface)
- Poisoning/Infection
- Injuries associated with glass, other sharps, and needle-stick
- Spillages/Releases
- Hot/Cold Contact
- Electricity
- Animals
- Explosions
- Handling
- Other/Exempt

* A categorisation of “Explosion” is likely to sound dramatic. Without in any way wishing to diminish the significance of this occurrence, it may be helpful to clarify that it arose when a rubber tube connecting a nitrogen flow to a microwave synthesizer ruptured due to a pressure surge from the nitrogen source. A colleague standing next to the tubing when it ruptured experienced some noise-related trauma to his left ear, following which he experienced muffled hearing and a persistent loud ringing for a period of time. There were no enduring ill-effects.

3. Summary:

Of the 41 occurrences of accidents and incidents reported during 2023 (to be compared with 18 during 2022, 21 during 2021, 22 during 2020, 28 during 2019, 43 during 2018, 32 in 2017, 37 in 2016, and 44 in 2015), none dictated formal notification to the HSE in the context of the Reporting of Injuries, Disease and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR).

The increased rate of occurrences during 2023 must be considered in the context of there being something in excess of 1,500 whole-time staff and post-graduate students and several hundred undergraduates based on the Edinburgh bioQuarter campus, some engaged in the handling of substances of high consequence and involved in hazardous procedures.

Injuries caused by medical sharps, glassware and tools (14 during 2023) remain the most frequently occurring source of injury year-after-year within UofE premises on the bioQuarter campus, albeit in low total numbers, and continued attention is directed to the sharps injury avoidance training package contained within the CM&V web site:

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/medicine-vet-medicine/staff-and-current-students/cmvm-health-and-safety/edinburgh-bioquarter/training-presentations>

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