# Safety Communication through Effective Safety Inspections

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Defining Tomorrow's Medicine

BACKGROUND

SingHe	ealth O	ffice of Biosafety WORKI	PLACE SAFETY	SURVEY CH	ECI	(LIST	SingHealth Betwee Reverses Media	
D	DEPART	MENT / INSTITUTION	SURVEY LO	CATION		DATE OF SURVEY -MMM-YYYY)	NAME OF SURVEYOR	
				Yes If condition is				
S/N		WORK PRAC	TICES	No If condition is applied to be applied to be applied but not observed NA if condition is not	icable	R	EMARKS	

SingHealth Office of Biosafety conducts workplace safety & health (WSH) inspections on all SingHealth research premises annually.

## **OUR APPROACH**



 WSH officers provide onsite advice to lab managers and

A	GENERAL WSH MANAGEMENT (Applicable to all	workp	aces	
1	WORKPLACE EHS RISK ASSESSMENT			
1.1	Is risk assessment carried out for hazardous work?			
1.2	Have risk assessment been communicated to all workers?			Method of communication:
	"Worker" refers to all persons at work, e.g. Staff / collaborator / student / intern.			Name of worker interviewed:
1.3	Are safe work procedures established for hazardous work?			
1.4	Is risk assessment reviewed at least once every 3 years?			Date of risk assessment:
	Or when there is a change to work processes, facilities or an incident arising from the hazards at work.			
1.5	Hazardous work conducted only on SingHealth premises?			
1.6	Are there any collaborator / student / intern working in the laboratory?			
2	ELECTRICAL & EQUIPMENT SAFETY			
2.1	Are electrical equipment in good working conditions and free of damages?			
2.2	Do AC power plugs bear SPRING Singapore's SAFETY Mark?			
2.3	Do the pressure vessels bear a <u>valid</u> inspection sticker(s) by Authorised Boiler Inspectors / Approved Inspection Agencies (Pressure Vessels)?			
2.4	Is Safe Working Load printed on the frame of lifting equipment?			
2.5	Are all general laboratory equipment in safe working conditions?			
2.6	Are moving parts of machinery adequately guarded?			

We review how safety inspections can be effectively used in communicating safety information to the researchers.

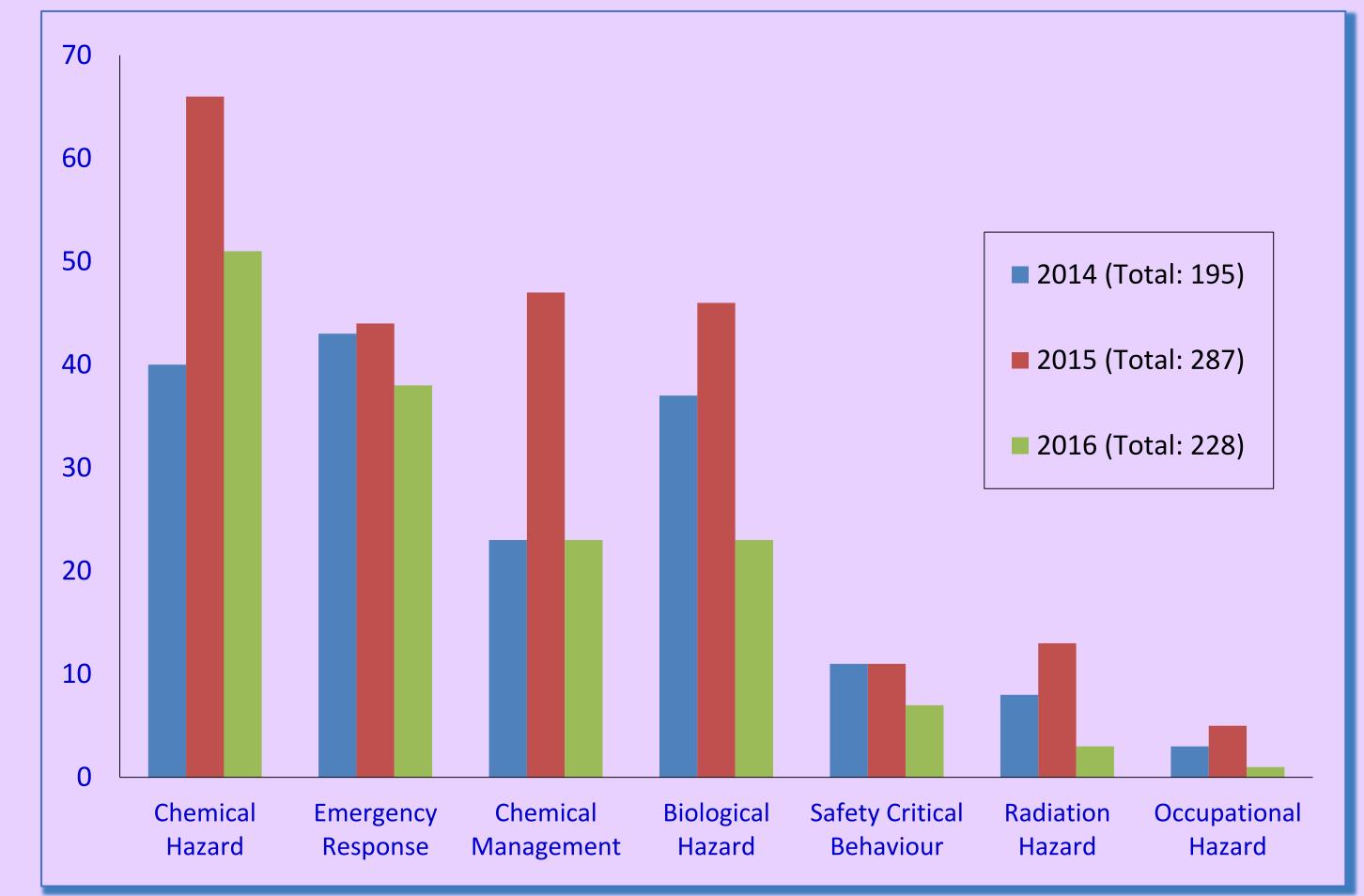
- suggest workplace improvements.
- Communicate advices, safety findings and safety improvements to all relevant stakeholders.

### INSIGHTS

#### Safety inspection is a great way to engage researchers

- Safety inspection brings the inspectors to the site of work and to interact with researchers.
- The inspection walkabout also provides an opportunity for the researchers to ask questions and discuss solutions.
- Inspectors on the ground has a better grasp of the





situation and can offer better suggestions.

#### Keeping each safety inspections to 2 hour

 Longer inspections promote fatigue and inspectors performed less effective as the hours progressed.

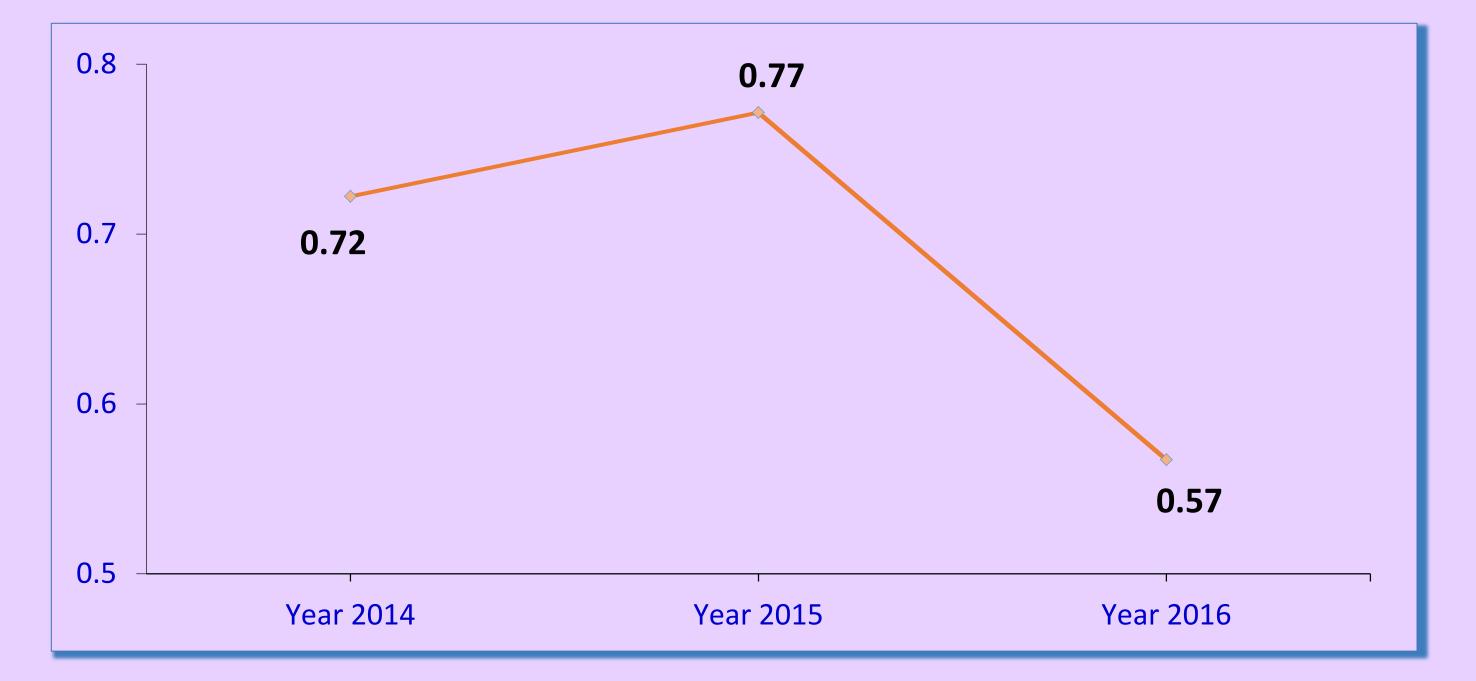
#### Assigned Lab Coordinators

 Lab coordinators are excellent liaisons to help inspectors to broadcast safety messages and follow up on safety inspection findings.

#### **Safety Inspections promote safety cultures**

- Data for the past few years of safety inspections shows evidence of reduction in inspection findings.
- SingHealth Office of Biosafety finds that the interaction with researchers during safety inspections is an effective means of communicating safety.

#### •Chart 2: Number of inspection findings per workplace surveyed from 2014 to 2016



 Regular safety inspections is a channel of effective safety communication through a proactive safety activity.

### So What Did We Learn?

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- SingHealth Office of Biosafety finds that the interaction with researchers during safety inspections is an effective means of communicating safety.