

# Looking beyond the hazards

## A TALE about Hospital Research Laboratory Safety

### Aim

Workplace risk management is the process of identifying, evaluating and controlling risks at the workplace. A workplace safety survey is an important part of the risk management system in identifying workplace hazards and providing solutions in risk control measures.

The aim of the project is to improve the workplace risk management system for

hospital research laboratories through extended analysis and application techniques in conducting workplace safety survey through:

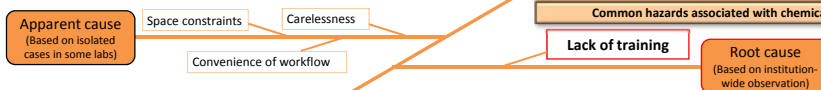
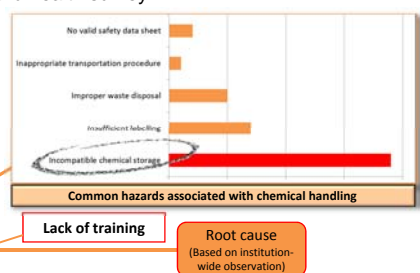
- Optimizing recommendations for corrective and preventive actions in rectifying safety and health hazards
- Providing comprehensive coverage in areas of relevant legal compliance

### Methodology

TALE comprises of 4 elements that are applied in augmenting a standard workplace safety and health survey:

#### Trend

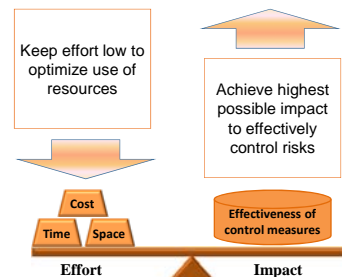
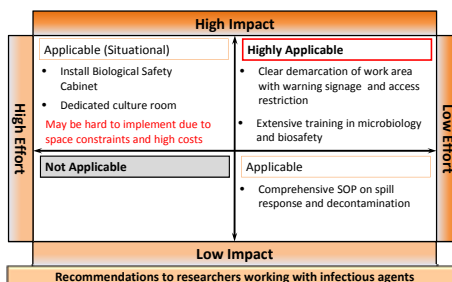
Instead of focusing on a single occurrence, we study tendencies and identify consistent patterns of potential safety breaches or unsafe acts. Identifying trends rectifies the issue at the root and prevents recurrence.



#### Applicability

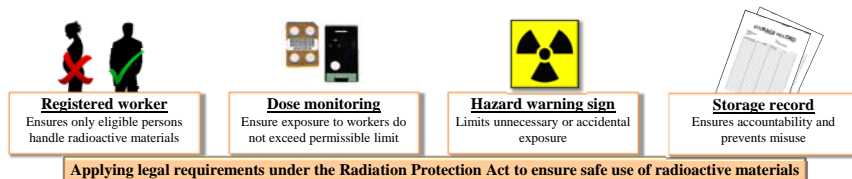
When providing recommendations for risk control measures, considerations were taken into limiting factors such as availability of space, funding and time.

All recommendations are to achieve the appropriate effort-impact balance to ensure that rectifications are not only effective, but also justifiable.



#### Legality

There may be legal implications in the operation of a laboratory, especially when working with hazardous materials. While compliance with legal requirements is mandatory, the associated regulations and guidelines are often useful in ensuring workplace safety.



#### Exceptions

There are always situations which are unique and as such require special considerations and innovative solutions. Our extensive database built through surveying various workplaces across several institutions allow us to tap on similar past cases to expedite rectification and improvement process.

### Results



Solutions provided are better targeted at the underlying root cause, and are thus more likely to prevent recurrence.

Elimination of further rectifications required saves costs and time.



Comprehensive safety surveys integrate checks for compliance with legal requirements and parts of quality management systems.

Saves time and manpower as compared to checking separately.



Researchers' confidence in system provides positive feedback loop. Researchers are more proactive in reporting safety issues.

Facilitates and expedite necessary corrective or preventive actions.

### Conclusion

Every research laboratory tells a unique TALE. Through a more comprehensive coverage and deeper analysis we can gain a better understanding of the different situations to improve on the overall workplace risk management system in ensuring a safer working environment for researchers.

Acknowledgement:  
Special thanks to Office of Safety Network, SGH