Date: September 20, 2012

To: New York Campus Environmental Resource (NYCER) Members

From: Howard Apsan

Re: NYCER Meeting Minutes
Rockefeller University Weiss Research Building, September 11, 2012

Opening
The September NYCER meeting was held in Rockefeller University on September 11, 2012. The meeting was hosted by Frank Schaefer, Director of Lab Safety and Environmental Health for Rockefeller University. The meeting began with a moment of silence to remember those killed in the attack of September 11, 2001. Jennifer Long of CUNY Environmental, Health, Safety and Risk Management recorded the minutes. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by acclamation. NYCER members are encouraged to visit http://www.cuny.edu/nycer for information and updates about NYCER.

College Updates
Hurricane Season Warning
Hurricane season lasts from June through November and colleges and universities should be prepared in the event of a hurricane or severe costal storm. This is especially critical for any New York campuses or hospitals that serve as evacuation centers, hurricane shelters and special medical needs shelters, or that may have to be evacuated.

Seasonal Disease Warning
Since our June 2012 meeting, there has been reported cases of the hantavirus and West Nile virus. The recent West Nile virus outbreak is the largest since the virus was first detected in the US in 1999. With seasonal changes, it is expected that the numbers of West Nile infections will decrease, but as members know, the colder months also coincide with cold and flu season.

Update on Lab Fatality at UCLA
In December 2008, a UCLA research assistant died from burns caused by a laboratory fire. The principal investigator for the lab was indicted and now faces if convicted 4 ½ years in prison for violating occupational health and safety standards. This incident highlights the importance of regular lab inspections, to identify and minimize risk to students and employees.
Workplace Violence
A week after the Empire State Building Shooting, there was another fatal shooting in New Jersey at a Pathmark supermarket. Both shootings were reported to be acts of violence against coworkers and should underscore the importance of workplace violence prevention programs. Any signs suggesting potential violence or suicidal ideation should receive immediate attention.

FDNY Code Revision
Kurt Klein, Health and Safety Manager at CUNY, compiled suggestions for the FDNY Code revisions from NYCER members and submitted them to the FDNY for review after the March NYCER meeting. The FDNY is considering these suggestions as it works to finalize the code revisions.

2012 SEHSA Fall Conference
Mel Rodriguez, EHSO at Queensborough Community College and SEHSA Board member, reminded those in attendance that the 2012 SEHSA Fall Conference will be held on October 20-25, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Lake Placid, NY. For additional information please visit, http://www.sehsa.org/upcomingevents.html.

Presentation
The meeting continued with a presentation by Ira Tannenbaum, Director of Public/Private Initiatives, New York City Office of Emergency Management, on “Emergency Preparedness: Building Resilience.” Ira discussed one of OEM’s many efforts - helping businesses prepare for and recover from emergencies through programs and initiative such as, Partners in Preparedness, a program designed to help organizations better prepare its employees, services, and facilities for disasters. We thank Ira for his informative presentation.

Upcoming Meetings
The City University of New York will host the upcoming NYCER meeting on Tuesday, December 11, 2012, from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM on the 10th floor conference room of 230 West 41st Street. Douglas J. Heath, Training Unit Leader, United States Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), will provide a presentation on “Sheltering from the Storm - Observations from Hurricane Sandy.”

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.