What is a Health & Safety Committee?

A Health and Safety Committee is a joint employee-management team that assists the employer in creating and maintaining a safe workplace. At the University of Regina various health and safety committees exist to handle suggestions and complaints, conduct inspections, investigate incidents and injuries, and advise the University administration.

University Health and Safety Committee (HSC)

The University Health and Safety Committee assists the University of Regina in meeting the requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, and all applicable provincial and federal legislation and Municipal by-laws. The committee has a mandate to advise, assist and make recommendations on policy and procedures that will improve the health and safety of faculty, staff, students and the general public while at the University.

Committee leaders encourage information sharing, co-operation and compromise. The members' names are posted on the Health and Safety Committee bulletin boards and are available on the UofR web site.

The HSC meets every second month to recommend on all matters of health and safety. It advises the University on health and safety matters and recommends remedial actions where necessary. In collaboration with Health, Safety & Environment (HSE), it oversees the University Health & Safety Programs. The HSC consists of 12 members: four representatives of the University appointed by the president, and eight employees chosen by the trade unions. The union positions are composed of three representatives from CUPE 1975, one representative from CUPE 2419, two representatives from URFA and two representatives from APT. The HSE Director is a non-voting member and a resource to the committee.

Local Safety Committees

Local safety committees have been established in the Faculties/Departments identified as higher risk to provide a process where health and safety concerns can be addressed at a local level. Committees have been established in the following faculties and departments:

- Science
- Facilities Management
- Engineering & Applied Science
- Kinesiology & Health Studies
- Fine Arts
- College Avenue Campus

The Dean or AVP is responsible for ensuring a local committee is established and that it carries out its respective health and safety responsibilities. The local safety committees operate under the auspices of the HSC, and play a significant role in the identification and resolution of local health and safety issues. Local committee members are required to complete training provided by HSE. The effectiveness of the local safety committee depends on the leadership provided by the dean, AVP or designated individual. It is the designated individual's responsibility to ensure appropriate representation on the committee, that issues raised receive timely investigation and response, and, if unresolved, are referred to the legislated HSC. The local safety committees
report to the HSC annually through attendance of the Chair, or designate, at the regular HSC meeting.

### Subcommittees

Subcommittees are established as required to perform specific health and safety tasks when a need is identified by the HSC. They report to the HSC through the HSE Director. The current subcommittees are:

- asbestos
- confined spaces
- chemical safety
- ergonomics task force
- smoking cessation

Other University health and safety related committees presently exist, including:

- Biosafety Committee *
- Early Intervention Team (EIT)
- Emergency Management Committee (EMC)
- President’s Advisory Committee on Biosafety (PACB)
- President’s Advisory Committee on Radiation Safety (PACRS)
- President’s Committee on Animal Care (PCAC)