



College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine (Edinburgh bioQuarter Campus)

Incident Analyses

Reported incidents from 01st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

1. Introduction:

This is the eighteenth 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.

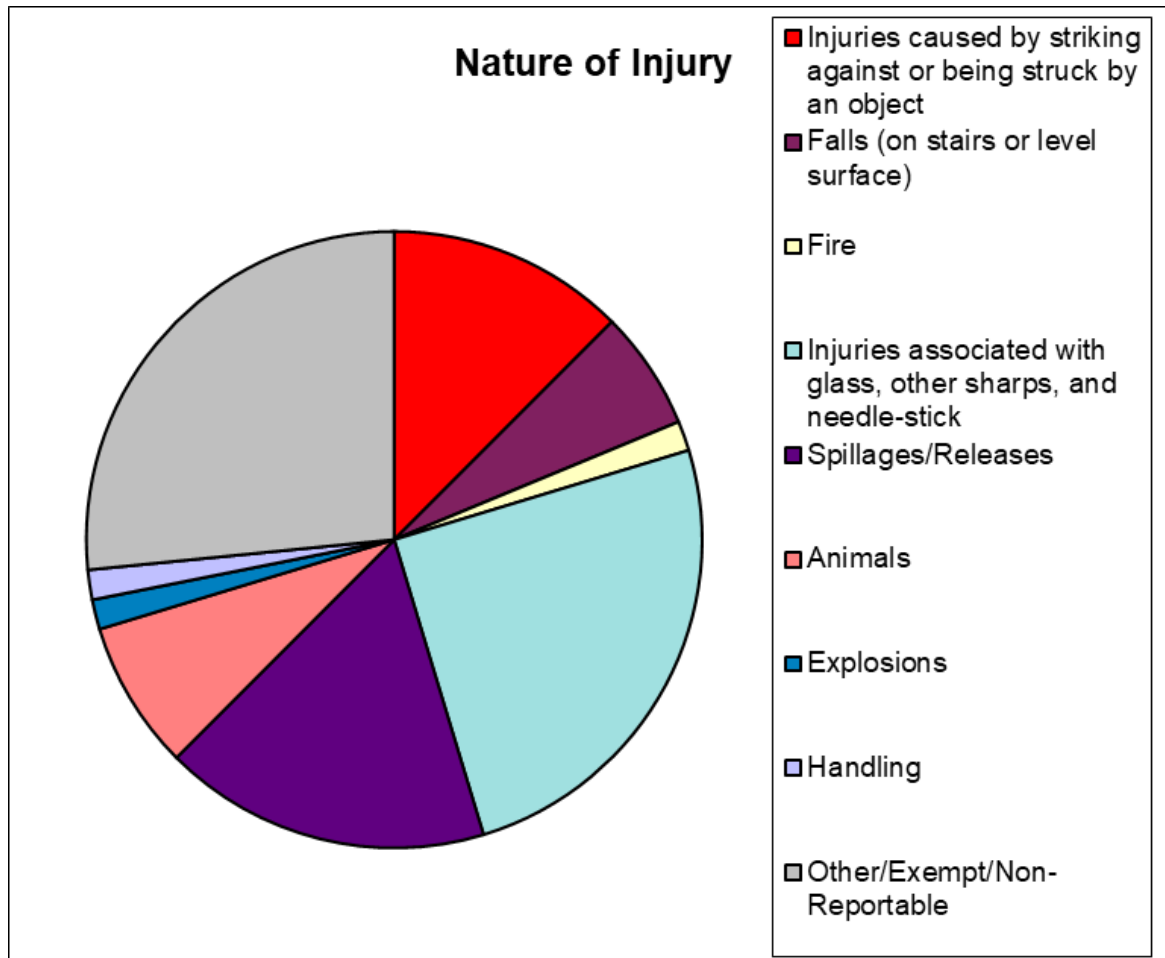
The Health & Safety Manager is grateful to all who throughout the year have conscientiously reported occurrences, whether resulting in actual injury or not, since near-miss reports too may well have resulted in steps being taken to further enhance safety standards and the development of safer systems 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)	4
Fire*	1
Injuries associated with glass, other sharps, and needle-stick	16
Spillages/Releases	11
Animals	5
Explosions	1
Handling	1
Other/Exempt/Non-Reportable	17

- * The reporting of one fire, which may seem to be a particularly alarming feature of this report, was in fact related to an observation of a small fire in a metal litter waste bin in a smoking shelter adjacent to IRR(N), which did not progress to a more serious event.



3. Summary:

Of the 63 occurrences of accidents and incidents reported during 2024 (of which ten were classified as ‘exempt’ or ‘non-reportable’), only one dictated the need for the casualty to be assessed by a medical professional, none resulted in absences from work, and none dictated

formal notification to the HSE in the context of the Reporting of Injuries, Disease and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR).

Without in any way intending to appear complacent, the increased rate of occurrences during 2024 (compared with 41 in 2023) must be taken in the context of there being something closing on 3,000 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. Increased reporting may also be attributable in part to greater encouragement during training for colleagues to report accidents, incidents, and also all near-miss occurrences.

Injuries caused by medical sharps, glassware and tools (16 during 2024) 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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