

CLS Chemical Pharmacy Program

The Problem

The Boston Fire Department set limits for the amount of Class I Flammable Liquids allowed on each floor of CLS to ensure the safety of occupants and preserve the integrity of the building in the event of a fire.

Aim/Goal

To remain in compliance with the fire department's limits, BIDMC created the Chemical Pharmacy Program. The pharmacy regulates the quantities on each floor by controlling all Class I Flammable purchases for CLS. The program offers discounted prices from buying in bulk, has a continuous inventory of commonly used chemicals, and staffs Triumvirate Environmental 4 days a week to deliver orders.

The Team

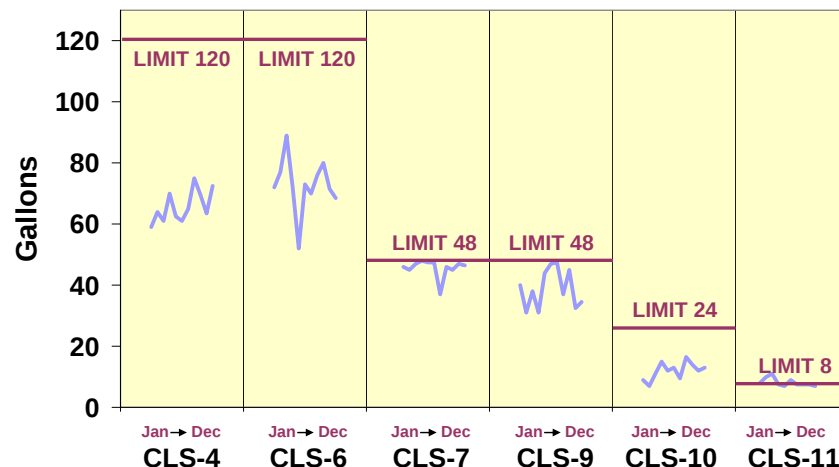
- Research and Academic Affairs
 - Will Decaneas
- Environmental Health & Safety
 - Gary Schweon, Dan Dancause, Mark Resendes
- Triumvirate Environmental
 - Jamieson Wicks, Lindsay Ellis, Mike Albert, Drew Legare

The Interventions

- Track monthly flammable liquid quantities per PI and per floor
- Negotiate discounts with vendors to receive best discounts and to pass savings on to researchers
- Temporarily relocate chemicals to pharmacy storage area when labs are over their limits
- Decrease order amounts when floor is approaching limit
- Educate new researchers on ordering procedure
- Allot chemical amounts per PI based on the continually changing space database

The Results/Progress

2010 Monthly Tracking of Inventory By Floor



Lessons Learned

The fire department's limits decrease as the floor numbers increase, since it is harder to quickly supply high volumes of water to the higher floors. It has proven to be difficult for the labs on these floors to remain in compliance, with only a few gallons allowed for each PI. Special attention needs to be paid to keeping the floors with low limits and high demand for flammables under their limits.

Next Steps/What Should Happen Next:

CLS-7, 9, 10 and 11 are floors with low limits and high demand that need to be closely monitored in the future. In 2011 we will be inspecting these floors biweekly. Another initiative in 2011 is to complete pricing negotiations with chemical vendors on bulk orders for the pharmacy to make best discounts available for BIDMC researchers.



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