OSHA CROSSTELL 21-03

AFSAS OSHA EVENT # 8292 / OSHA Inspection # 1503530

Eglin AFB (Det 6 AFRL) (AFMC) | OSHA Region: 4

17 November 2020

BLUF: Contractor was not made aware of potential health hazards and was injured while performing research in a government operated laboratory

Severity of Notice(s):

Notice 1 Item 1a: (Serious)

CFR(s) Violated: 29 CFR 1910.1450(e)(1): Where hazardous chemicals were used in the workplace, the employer did not develop and carry out the provisions of a written Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP) which was capable of protecting employees from health hazards associated with hazardous chemicals:

a) At Eglin AFB's AFRL-HERD building 1202, on or about 11-05-2020, the Employer failed to effectively implement the written Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP) to protect employees from the hazards associated to the storage, handling and use of hazardous chemicals, including but not limited to Ammonium Periodate and Lithium fluoride.

Notice 1 Item 1b: (Serious)

CFR(s) Violated: 29 CFR 1910.1450(f)(4)(i)(B): Employee training did not include the physical and health hazards of the chemicals in the work area:

a) At AFRL-HERD building 1202, on or about 11-05-2020, the Employer failed to provide effective training on the chemical, physical and health hazards associated to the storage, handling and use of chemicals, including but not limited to Ammonium Periodate and Lithium fluoride, to protect them from the hazards related to these chemicals reactivity, instability and explosivity.

Lessons Learned: The Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP) must contain all the information necessary for workers to store, handle, and use hazardous chemicals safely, and complete a thorough risk assessments to identify hazardous parts of the process. Train workers with shop specific detail on the process to address the hazards and controls necessary to work safely. This training must go beyond the reading of a Safety Data Sheet. Additionally, the Air Force maintains certain responsibilities to contractors performing hazardous operations on installations that include sharing of hazard information and safe procedures developed thorough risk analysis.

Preventing Reoccurrences: Laboratory supervisors must maintain awareness of all hazardous operations at the worksite under their control to ensure hazards are communicated to their personnel. This includes all contractors working at the site in accordance with the CHP. CHP requirements are found in OSHA Standard 29 CFR 1910.1450. Supervisors must ensure the CHP is implemented correctly and properly train workers on its contents to ensure full understanding of the hazards and the controls necessary to protect themselves. Document training to ensure only trained workers are allowed to work with the hazardous chemicals in the identified processes in the CHP.