



# Researcher Compliance with Biosafety

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# Researcher Compliance with Biosafety

- **“Measurable” Compliance**
- **Attitudes for a Continuum of Safety Compliance**
- **Shared Accountability**



# “Measurement” of Compliance is a Snapshot in Time!



- **Compliance with training**
  - Didactic, on-line, followed by a quiz
  - “Certification of Proficiency” (BSL3 or 4)
    - One-on-one, mentoring, hands-on
    - Checklist
    - Camera Surveillance



# “Measurement” of Compliance

- **Annual Laboratory Safety Audits / Follow-ups**
  - **Laboratory Audit Checklist (weighted)**
    - Physical Environment
    - Knowledge Assessment
  - **Escalated Enforcement**
  - **Periodic Reports of Lab Compliance to a Compliance Office**



# “Measurement” of Compliance

- **Compliance with laboratory safety policy development**
  - SOPs for BSL2; Human materials
  - SOPs for BSL3
- **Use of SOP for training of lab personnel**



# “Measurement” of Compliance

- Protocol Reviews for Grant Proposals
- Reported Exposures
  - Reporting exposures is GOOD



# How Do You Insure *Continued* Adherence to Safety?



**Risk Group 5: The Human Organism**



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# Positive Safety Attitudes

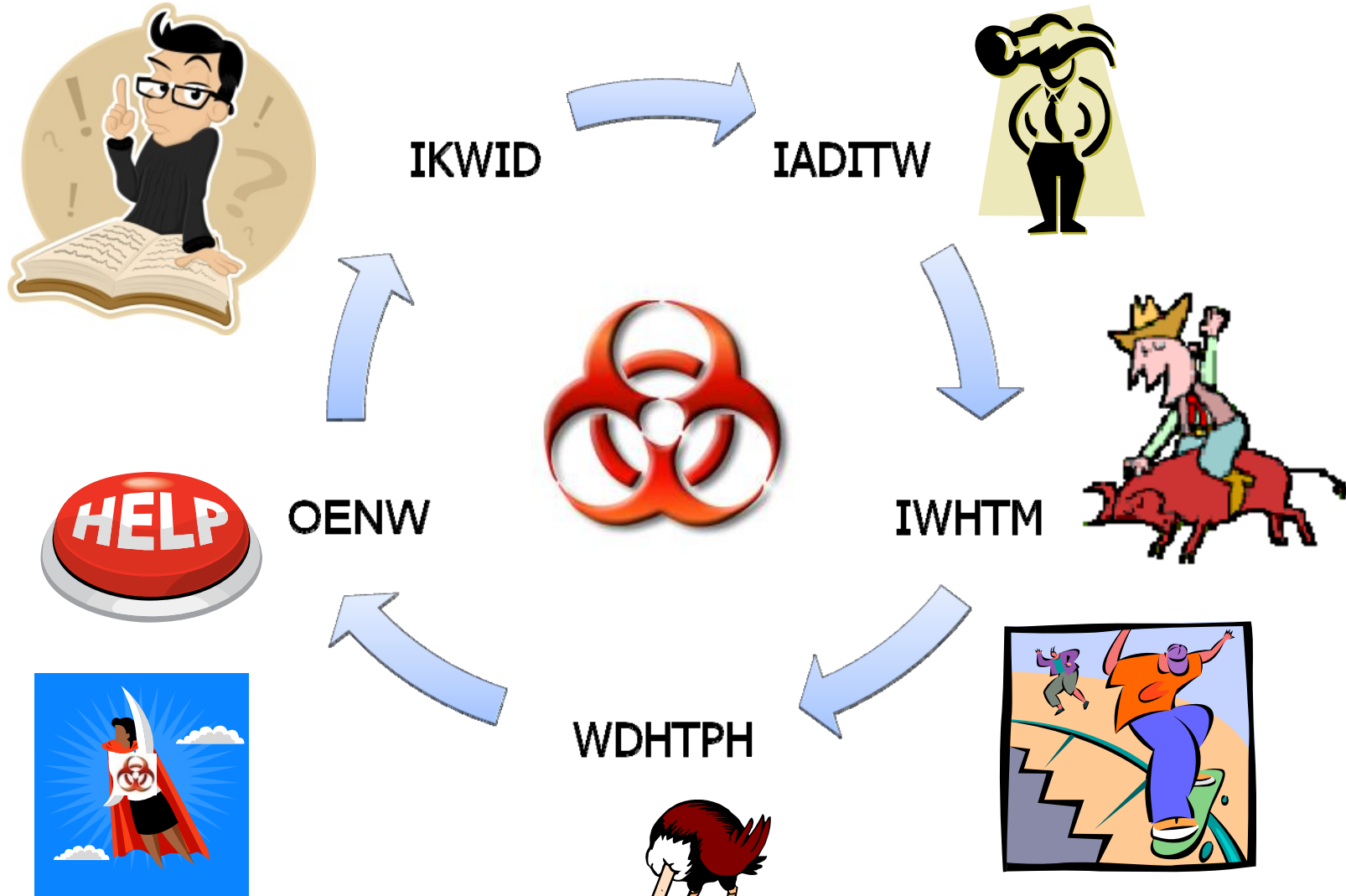
## Researcher who:

1. Asks for Advice
2. Asks for lab-specific training
3. Volunteers for Safety Committees
4. Is involved in development of safety protocols
5. Reports exposures / incidents
6. Considers Biological Safety to be a cohort vs an “officer”





# Negative Attitudes towards Biosafety



# Guide to acronyms

IKWID – I know what I'm doing

IADITW – I've always done it this way

IWHTM – It won't happen to me

WDHTPH – We don't have that problem  
here.

OENW – Oh, expletive, now what?

# Shared Accountability (*Institutional Attitude*)



A ***Culture of Safety*** (“Just” Culture)  
recognizes that Safety is a shared  
responsibility among the institution and  
the researchers

All mistakes are not equal:

Human error

At-risk behavior

Reckless behavior



# Shared Accountability

## Fostering Compliance



1. Act as a “coach”, not as an officer
2. Recognize that, when given scientific justifications for “rules”, researchers will generally comply
  - a) Compliance will increase with evidence of local experience / incidents
  - b) Provide examples of reported incidents/infections (National database?)



# Shared Accountability

## Fostering Compliance



### 3. Don't Sweat the Small Stuff

- a. Do researchers really have to know the chapter and verse of all regulations / guidelines?
- b. Make the training and requirements RELEVANT

### 4. Make requirements clear, easy, and quick

- a. Templates, checklists, reminders



# Shared Accountability

## Fostering Compliance



5. **Must Have Administrative Support!!!**
  - a. **Must provide appropriate safety equipment in sufficient quantities**
  - b. **Must provide knowledgeable personnel to work with researchers to facilitate compliance**
    1. **Hunt Ratio:  $\geq 1$  Biosafety FTE : 20-25 BSL3 labs**

