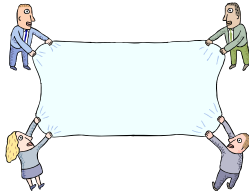


Winter 2009



The Safety Net

Published by the Safety/Health Action Committee of the San Diego Unified School District



The S/HAC Team

OSS

Dave Burnett
Johnnie Colvin
Larry Isom
Michael Lanz
Ethel Larkins
Robert Toth

OTBS

Frances Fierro
Sylvia Alvarez
Elaine Sabetti

PARAEDUCATORS

Jane Bausa
Kala Williams

SDEA

Camille Zombro

AASD

Patricia Burch

SDUSD—

Donis Armenta
Human Resources
Glenn Boogren
Risk Management
Dan Brennan

PPO

Shirley Cabri-Rumrill
Food Services
Brian Hyland, *IT*
Lowell Jarman
Transportation
Michael Kern
Transportation
Patty Labouff
Special Education
Luisa Monson
Nursing & Wellness

Ray Palmer
Custodial & Landscape

Going Green – Simple Steps to Greening up Your Life!

By Patricia Burch, Custodial Operations Supervisor

The goal of “going green” is to reduce health and environmental impacts, or in other words our “carbon footprints”. Being aware of how the every day products and decisions we make affect our future and the future for generations to come can be the first step towards implementing “green choices”. Here are a few ideas.

First of all embrace the concept of renewable resources! This can be as simple as using reusable cloth grocery bags instead of paper or plastic! Today we have many choices for environmentally friendly products from cleaning to the car we drive. Did you know that tire pressure impacts fuel economy, which has an impact on the environment? Keeping your tires properly inflated will improve fuel efficiency and will also prolong the life of your tires.

What we purchase makes a difference, choose food products that are packaged in recyclable containers. Choose environmentally friendly household products that are packaged in recyclable containers. Recycling paper, plastic, glass, aluminum at home and at work are positive ways to sustain our environment. Our recycling bins at our District sites are mixed use bins just like the blue bins in our neighborhoods. We can greatly reduce the impacts to our landfills if we consistently recycle paper, plastic, glass and aluminum everyday.

The definition of “green” in the workplace is comparative – it compares products and services to existing or traditional products and services used for the same purpose. It is a comparison of the effectiveness of the products and the health and environmental impacts. The desired result in selecting a “green” cleaning product is selecting a product that has the same cleaning effectiveness with less environmental and health impacts. When we consider green cleaning in schools we look at the product’s effectiveness, the safety of the person applying or using the product and the health and safety of the occupants of the spaces being cleaned.

In our School District we are committed to seeking opportunities to “green up” our new and existing facilities, vehicles, cleaning products and practices by being on the cutting edge with the industry standards in the construction of schools, cleaning and maintaining schools and in transporting our students. Going green is a team effort! Go Team! Go Green!

S/HAC Safety Nominations

Who is making your site a safer place to be? Who goes above and beyond the call of duty? Who do you really appreciate for the care they take of their colleagues and students? Nominate this person for S/HAC safety recognition! Download the form at <http://www.sandi.net/risk/safety.htm>. Those recognized will receive a certificate and a letter will be placed in their personnel file.

What is a MSDS?

Have you ever used a substance and wondered what it is really made of? What are its components or ingredients? Should I be wearing protective equipment? Do I need to take any special precautions? How can it be safely handled and stored? If it spills or leaks could it create a health or safety hazard? How should it be cleaned up?

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) provide this valuable information including the physical & chemical data of a product.

Codes, regulations, and district policies require hazardous materials handlers to:

1. Maintain an accurate, up to date inventory of chemicals at the site.
2. Maintain copies of MSDS for chemicals in the work place and make them available
3. Be trained in use and handling of products
4. Store the materials in a compatible manner to prevent accidental reactions caused by commingling of incompatible materials.
5. Properly label hazardous materials with the product identity, hazard warning, and the name and address of the manufacturer.

Need more information?
Contact (858) 627-7350 or visit our website.
<http://prod031.sandi.net/risk/>

Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

One of the benefits offered to eligible employees is the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), provided by PacifiCare Behavioral Health, which can assist you with a variety of issues such as stress, depression, job burnout, divorce, and grief. Stressful everyday issues can get in the way of your home life and work productivity. During these tough economic times, these issues may at times seem unbearable. You may access your EAP 24/7 by calling (888) 625-4809 or visit www.pbhi.com. Username: Southern California Schools VEBA; Password: time

Employees eligible for medical insurance through the district are also eligible for this program. For questions on eligibility please call the district's Benefits Office at: 619-725-8130.

PEST CONTROL

Pest infestations, such as ants, roaches and rodents in buildings are largely the result of food in the buildings. To reduce pest infestations and to comply with the Healthy Schools Act of 2000, it is essential that staff and students understand how food sources contribute to the problem and how important it is to deny food to pests.

The district's Pest Control staff will do everything possible to identify and resolve pest problems. However, your cooperation in observing the guidelines listed below will prevent or reduce insect and rodent infestations and ultimately reduce the need for pesticide applications. **The use of any pesticides at school sites or on district property by unauthorized personnel is unlawful and a violation of the district's Integrated Pest Management Policy.** Pesticides will only be used after other safer methods have been considered.

All staff members are asked to observe the following Integrated Pest Management program guidelines.

- Keep your work area clean.
- Eat only in designated dining areas when possible.
- Store food in glass or metal sealed containers. Clean up spills, crumbs, etc., as soon as possible when they occur in offices or classrooms.
- Promptly place all food waste in garbage cans. These cans should be placed outside. It is advisable that all garbage cans have plastic liners and that liners be changed daily.
- Rinse out beverage cans being saved for recycling purposes and ensure that these cans are removed from the recycling containers frequently.
- Clean coffee cups, dirty dishes, and utensils promptly and empty sink strainers regularly.
- Dispose of newspapers and excess paper promptly (excess paper provides harborage for pests).
- Send all artwork created with foodstuff home as soon as possible.

Questions regarding the Healthy Schools Act should be directed to Ray Palmer at (858) 627-7223.