

Los Angeles Unified School District

Office of Environmental Health and Safety

FOCUS N SAFETY

Fall 2006

Issue 7, 06/07

Keep Your Hazard Communication Program Current

The California Division of Occupational Safety and Health, known as Cal/OSHA, makes routine visits to ensure that LAUSD sites are in compliance with current laws. One of the first things they look for is that the site has a written Hazard Communication Program and has implemented it. Recently, an LAUSD site was fined \$320 for not being in compliance. Fines can be as high as \$18,000, and these costs come out of the school's budget.

The Hazard Communication Program is a site-

specific document that identifies hazards associated with the use or storage of all chemicals at that site. The site administrator or the Chemical Safety Coordinator must provide an up-to-date inventory of all chemical products used or stored at the facility, make available the Material Safety Data Sheet for each chemical product, ensure that all chemical products are correctly labeled, and provide a Hazard Communication training program for teachers and other employees. All District employees must receive Hazard Communica-

tion training at the time of their initial assignment, prior to new assignments involving chemicals, and prior to performance of non-routine tasks that involve use of chemicals.

Each office, school or facility in the District must have a copy of the District's written Hazard Communication Program at their location. For more information, please contact your District Safety Officer at 213-241-3199 or visit our website at www.lausd-oehs.org/productreview.asp

Special Announcements:

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, October 29th. As you turn your clocks back, remember to change the batteries in your smoke alarm and refresh your emergency supplies. Getting in the habit of doing this at this time of year establishes an effective preparedness routine.

Also, if you haven't already, please remember to get your school radios "tuned up."

Improving Air Quality In Your Classroom

Studies have shown that a good indoor environment contributes to success in the classroom and there are some simple things that you can do to improve the ensure this.

Maintain Adequate Ventilation. If your room has no mechanical ventilation, periodically open the window for some fresh air. If you do have mechanical ventilation, do not turn off ventilation units and never block vents with boxes, furniture or other items.

Reduce Clutter. Pick up loose items on the floor or other surfaces and place them in bins or on shelves so that your floors may be swept and your counters dusted.

Remove Old Furniture.

Remove upholstered furniture that may contain stuffing, as well as any pillows or cushions as they may contain dust, dust mites or other contaminants.



Manage Chemicals.

Be sure to use only approved chemicals. Many non-approved chemicals contain harsh smells or ingredients that contaminate the indoor air environment.

Avoid Fragrances.

Minimize staff's use of fragrances including perfumes and essential oils. Do not use non-approved room deodorizers, sprays or plug-ins.

Keep Overhead Areas

Clutter Free. Do not hang items from your ceiling that may collect dust or block ventilation.

Report Problems to

OEHS. Water leaks, damp or musty materials, signs of pest infestation, strong odors, ventilation unit problems and air quality concerns should be reported to the plant manager to place a trouble call. If the call is not responded to in a timely manner, you may call the Office of Environmental Health & Safety Duty Officer at (213) 241-3199 or submit a question/complaint through our website at: www.lausd-oehs.org/questions.asp

Inside this issue:

Keep Your Hazard Communication Program Current
Page 1

Improving Air Quality In Your Classroom
Page 1

The Pieces of Traffic Make a Picture
Page 2

October is Wildfire Awareness Month
Page 2

The Pieces of Traffic Make a Picture

Interested in a project that combines traffic safety education, artistic skills, community involvement, student cooperation, and fundraising all in one? The annual Traffic Safety Mural Project does just that.

2006's winner, Carver Middle School, won \$1,000 for their school by incorporating the project into their after-school program.

2006's second place winner, Marina del Rey Middle School, won \$500 for their school by incorporating the project into their art class. Dana Karesh, the art teacher, learned about the project from an L.A. School Police officer. Ms. Karesh's class of 19 art students worked together each period to design their own mural. Their elaborate tile mosaic depicted a warning about the dangers of jaywalking. The theme of the mural "Jaywalking is illegal. Be Smart, Don't Dart" was inspired a recent tragedy in their community where a student was hit while jaywalking.

Ms. Karesh was not alone in her exploits. She had the gracious help of the community in the project as well. In her efforts to gain the supplies necessary for this undertaking, she solicited help from local businesses, including a local tile company. The Home Depot not only donated money for supplies, but also provided the expertise of their employees who taught both the students and the teacher how to

mix cement and grout and use the tools necessary to complete the project.

The annual contest is open to all LAUSD Middle Schools. This year, the 2007 Traffic Safety Mural Project is sponsored by AAA, the LAPD, the LASPD, School Safe Traffic Zone, and LAUSD. 2007's cash prizes are at least \$1,000 for first, \$500 for second, and \$300 for third, but have the potential to be more, as well as a possible "Night at the Races" at the Irwindale Speedway for all participating students and teachers. All mural judging is done by the Otis College of Art and Design and is based 50% on message and 50% on artistic composition. Murals should be as close as possible to 10'x15'.

Contact your L.A. School Police Officer, School Safe Traffic Zone, or the following LAPD Traffic Division of your bureau: West Traffic Division at (213) 473-0243, Valley Traffic Division at (818) 902-0336, South Traffic Division at (213) 485-7742, Central Traffic Division at (213) 972-1868. Officers should be contacted by your schools by early November.



Above: The Second Place Winner: "Jaywalking is illegal. Be Smart, Don't Dart" by Marina del Rey MS.

October is Wildfire Awareness Month

The recent fire in Los Angeles County has burned over 250 square miles of sun-drenched brush. Wildfires often begin unnoticed and can spread quickly, igniting brush, trees and homes in their path. If you are at risk from wildfires, it is important to plan ahead, and assemble a wildfire-specific emergency kit that includes:

- Sturdy work clothes, gloves and boots.
- Household "fire tools" such as a rake, an ax, a hand-saw or chainsaw, a bucket and a shovel.
- A garden hose long enough to reach any area of your home or structures on the property.
- A portable gasoline-powered water pump, in case electrical power is cut off.
- A fire extinguisher.
- Roof-height ladder to wet the roof down or remove flammable debris.

If you are near an active wildfire, be sure to listen frequently to local radio or television stations for updated information, so that when a wildfire changes direction, you can evacuate your whole family, including your pets.

For more information, visit the Los Angeles Fire Department website, www.lafd.org.

Upcoming Training:

16-Hr Asbestos Awareness

(1st Day Lecture at OEHS / 2nd Day Mandatory Hands-on Training at Central Shops—ATU)

To sign up, call (213) 745-1148

2-Hr Asbestos Awareness

To sign up, call (213) 745-1148

SEMS (Standardized Emergency Management System)

School Police Headquarters

1330 West Pico Blvd.

November 14, 2006

December 12, 2006

January 9, 2007

February 13, 2007

To Sign up, call (213) 241-3949

Heartsaver Classes

For information or to enroll please go to the Learning Zone or contact Nursing Special Programs at (213) 763-8312

About Us:



Office of

Environmental Health and Safety

333 S. Beaudry Avenue, 20th Floor

Los Angeles, California 90017

Phone: (213) 241-3199

Fax: (213) 241-6816

Website: www.lausd-oehs.org

Angelo J. Bellomo, Director

Larry Hall, Industrial Hygiene Manager

Maria Thorpe, Newsletter Editor