

SASH (SCHOOLS ACTION FOR SAFETY & HEALTH) IS A PROGRAM OF:

THE COMMISSION ON HEALTH AND SAFETY AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION

LABOR OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAM, UC BERKELEY

Happy New Year and welcome to the second edition of the **SASH Connection!** This newsletter is for you—SASH Coordinators—who have gone through the program's free training and are now serving as a health and safety resource for your district.

In this edition we answer a question that came up during SASH class: Are MSDSs needed for household products used at work? And, we provide a new resource on cleaning products and work-related asthma.

We continue to solicit your involvement in this newsletter. Please send us your questions, challenges, successes and/or suggestions that might benefit other districts.

Remember, it takes everyone, working together, to create a safe workplace!

SASH Program
LOHP, UC Berkeley
2223 Fulton St., 4th Fl.
Berkeley, CA 94720-5120
510-643-8902 (P)
510-643-5698 (F)

The SASH Connection

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Moving Ahead with Workplace Wellness

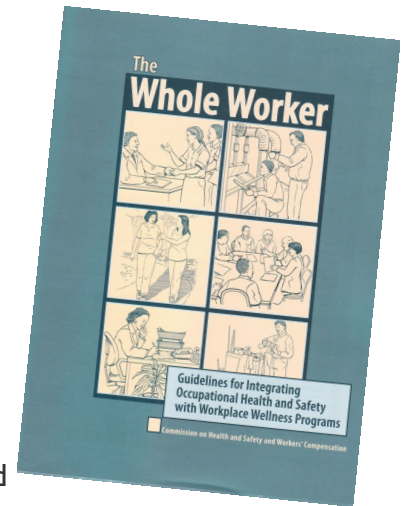
The Whole Worker: Guidelines for Integrating Occupational Health and Safety with Workplace Wellness Programs

Health is one of the most important and complex issues faced by our country today, and the workplace has a central role to play. Americans, on average, spend more than half their waking lives at work. Work affects employees and their communities in profound ways, affecting health care options, emotional well-being, and family life. In order to fully address health, we have to address both what happens at work and outside of work.

In July 2008, LOHP facilitated a roundtable convened by the Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation. Titled "Workplace Well-

ness: How to Address Both Occupational and Lifestyle Issues on the Job," this roundtable discussed the importance of integrating workplace wellness programs and occupational health and safety.

LOHP recently published "The Whole Worker: Guidelines for Integrating Occupational Health and Safety with Workplace Wellness Programs," based upon the recommendations of the roundtable discussion. It is an initial effort to respond to the expressed need for educational materials with



guidelines for integrating occupational safety and health with workplace health promotion programs. This work is based on the content, principles, and resources introduced during the roundtable discussion. This booklet is available for download at www.lohp.org. To request a limited number of hard copies, please contact Valeria Velazquez at vvelazquez@berkeley.edu

SASH Training Schedule — Please help us with publicity!

Alameda County Office of Education—1/31/11, 8:00 a.m. at 313 West Winton Avenue, Conference Room L-2, Hayward, CA 94544

Contra Costa County Schools Insurance Group—2/16/11, 8:00 a.m. at 550 Ellinwood Way, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

To register for or help set up a free training program in your area, contact Donna Iverson at UCB LOHP — 510-643-8902; Sarah Jacobs at UCLA LOSH — 310-295-8273; or visit the SASH website at www.dir.ca.gov/chswc/sash.

Are MSDSs required for household products used in classrooms or offices?

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) give information on hazardous chemicals, such as health hazards, precautions for safe handling, and use and storage of these chemicals. Employers are required to make the most current version of MSDSs accessible during each work shift for every hazardous chemical in their workplace.

For this MSDS question, we turned to the regulations. They say that one of the exclusions from the hazard communication regulation is “consumer products packaged for distribution to, and use by, the general public, provided that employee exposure to the product is not significantly greater than the consumer exposure occurring during the principal consumer use of the product.”

Consequently, MSDSs may not be required for household products if the amount used and the exposure at work is not significantly greater than the amount one would use or be exposed

to at home.

We recommend that you look at how much the product is used. If it appears that it is used significantly more than one would use around the house, you can make a case that the district should provide an MSDS for it.

Read the label on the product carefully and try contacting the manufacturer to see if they have an MSDS available. (Most companies make MSDSs available even if the use isn't enough that the employer would be required to have one.) This way you will have more information on the product to help keep you and your fellow employees safe.

Tips on finding MSDSs:

[California Hazard Communication Regulation Title 8, subsection 5194\(b\)\(5\)\(G\) Guide to the California Hazard Communication Regulation](#)

New H&S Resources:

Factsheet on “Cleaning Products and Work-Related Asthma”

Excerpt: The Work-Related Asthma Prevention Program tracks information about workers with asthma in California, and helps workers avoid getting asthma from their job. The program has found that nearly 10% of all work-related asthma cases were caused by exposure to cleaning products. Most of these cases had new asthma that started only after they began work — the exposures caused their asthma. About one in five people (almost 20%) used cleaning products directly, such as janitors. The other 80% of workers attributed their asthma symptoms to cleaning products used nearby. Many workplaces, like schools, hospitals, and restaurants are places where everyone, including children, can be affected by cleaning products.

The California Work-related Asthma Prevention Program of the Occupational Health Branch at the California Department of Public Health has developed a factsheet that is available to download at www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/ohsep/Documents/WRA-CleaningProd.pdf