

The SASH Connection

This is the fourth edition of the *SASH Connection*. This newsletter is for you—SASH Coordinators—who have gone through the SASH Program’s free training and are now serving as health and safety resources for your district.

In this edition, we discuss the problem of hazardous materials disposal and the results of our recent survey of SASH training participants.

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!

Preventing Hazardous Materials Incidents on School District Property

The following stories were told to us by Matthew Geisert, Hazardous Materials Supervisor in the Environmental Health Services Division of Solano County’s Department of Resource Management. Matt is also a former OSHA inspector. Following each story, Matt provides some helpful tips for avoiding similar problems in the future.

Story #1: A school district was transferring use of an existing high school into a middle school. The district hired a furniture moving company to handle the move which included the furnishings as well as chemicals from the chemistry and biology laboratories. As the company began moving the chemicals, it spilled nitric acid on the floor, producing a vapor cloud. 911 dispatch was called and the City Fire Department, Interagency Hazardous Materials Team, and the County Environmental Health Division

responded to the incident. County Environmental Health issued an inspection report requiring the hiring of a licensed hazardous waste transporter to properly transport the surplus chemicals.

What actions could the school district have undertaken to prevent this incident from occurring?

- 1) The district should have hired a moving contractor with knowledge and training on hazardous materials to segregate, secure and safely transport the chemicals.
- 2) The district should have taken the responsibility to supervise and manage the move.
- 3) The district should have had an emergency response/spill plan.

Survey Results – What We’ve Learned from You

As you may recall, the SASH Program recently conducted a survey to find out what health and safety changes SASH Coordinators are making back in their districts. One of the purposes of the survey was to find out whether California’s SASH Program can serve as a model for other states.

Almost 80% of those who responded to the survey have already used the skills they gained through the SASH training to improve their district’s health and safety program. Many of you mentioned that you have fine-tuned your safety programs since the training (*Don’t forget to use the IIPP template in your binder!*). Several of you have incorporated safety talks into your regular meetings. Many of you have revitalized or even started a new health and safety committee. An overwhelming 90% of those who responded to the survey expressed interest in attending a 1 or 2 hour refresher training course (*Stay tuned for a refresher course in 2012!*). We will be following up with many of you in the coming weeks, particularly those of you who did not have the time to respond to the survey.

We greatly appreciate your participation in the survey -- it helps us tailor the SASH program to meet your needs.

Preventing Hazardous Materials Incidents on School District Property, continued

Story #2: The corporation yard of a California school district was recently inspected by County Environmental Health. The Environmental Health inspectors found many laboratory containers in the yard and in a shed. Many of the containers were broken with spills of powders and liquids on the ground. The containers appeared to have been at the corporation yard for a long time, given the faded or missing labels. Environmental Health issued an inspection report noting a violation of illegal disposal of hazardous wastes. Penalties for these types of violations are up to \$25,000 per day per violation civilly.

What actions could the school district have undertaken to prevent this incident and the violations from occurring?

1. Segregate the chemicals and place them in proper containers.
2. Label the containers with hazardous waste labels identifying the contents.
3. Hire a hazardous waste hauler to transport the hazardous waste for proper disposal within 80 days of accumulating the waste.

Hazardous Waste in Schools Checklist

What is hazardous waste? Hazardous waste is any material that when discarded exhibits any of the following characteristics, Toxicity, Reactivity, Ignitability and Corrosivity, or is included on a state or federal hazardous waste list.

Areas in Schools That Generate Hazardous Waste

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art/Photography | <input type="checkbox"/> Auto Body Shop |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Auto Repair | <input type="checkbox"/> Biology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ceramics | <input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Science | <input type="checkbox"/> Custodial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drama/Set Design | <input type="checkbox"/> Facilities Maintenance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Graphic Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds Maintenance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Office | <input type="checkbox"/> Machining/Welding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paint Shop | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shop |

Toxic Wastes in Schools (partial list)

- Animal specimens and preservatives
- Ceramic glazes
- Contaminated materials (paper towels, rags, etc.)
- Coolants



Toxic Wastes in Schools, partial list continued.

- Grinding waste
- Oil for equipment, vehicle maintenance
- Paints (both oil and latex)
- PCB light ballasts
- Pesticides
- Photo solutions with silver
- Solder wastes
- Sterilization solutions

For more information

For more information about hazardous waste management, check www.dtsc.ca.gov or www.EHinfo.org/hazmat. Also contact your county's environmental health department.

SASH Training Schedule – Please help us with publicity!

- **September 20, 2011** at Trinity County Office of Education in Weaverville, CA.
- **September 21, 2011** at Shasta County Office of Education in Redding, CA
- **October 6, 2011** at Sierra County Office of Education in Quincy, CA. Plumas County district employees will be participating via video conferencing.
- **October 18, 2011** at Merced County Office of Education in Merced, CA
- **October 19, 2011** at Fresno County Office of Education in Fresno, CA
- **October 22, 2011** in El Monte, CA sponsored by CSEA.

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