SASH

SCHOOL ACTION FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH

Promoting Safe and Healthy Workplaces for California's School Employees

The Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation (CHSWC)

California Department of Industrial Relations

Did You Know?

- School employees have a higher-than-average rate of job-related injuries and illnesses when compared to all industries in California.
- Between 2004 and 2008, California assessed $273,000 in penalties for Cal/OSHA citations against school districts.
- Common hazards faced by school staff include: chemicals, ergonomic hazards, infectious disease, poor indoor air quality, trips, slips, and fall hazards, and stress.

Addressing Employee Safety Helps Everyone at School!

Schools are an integral part of our communities and staff are entrusted with the education and well-being of our children and youth. Schools are also workplaces for teachers, administrators, staff, paraprofessionals, custodians, food service providers, bus drivers, and others. By working together to promote safe and healthy workplaces, school employees can help:

- prevent work-related injuries and illnesses;
- avoid disruptions in the classroom so students can continue to learn and be successful in school;
- boost employee morale and productivity by addressing workplace health and safety problems quickly and showing a commitment to employee safety and well-being; and
- reduce financial costs that often go along with an injury, including higher workers' compensation claims, hiring substitutes, and paying Cal/OSHA fines.

How the SASH Program Helps Schools

The School Action for Safety and Health (SASH) Program is a statewide initiative to help school districts reduce the high rate of work-related injuries and illnesses among school employees. The SASH Program offers:

1. A free training program to help build the capacity of district-level health and safety coordinators to be resources to other employees and develop an injury and illness prevention program to identify, prevent and eliminate hazards.
2. Written materials that support injury and illness prevention activities.
3. Problem-solving assistance provided in an ongoing manner by a statewide resource center.

"Injuries and illnesses can be reduced when everyone in the school community works together to recognize and solve potential health and safety problems."

—**Jack O'Connell,** State Superintendent of Public Instruction

SASH Program Elements

THE SASH TRAINING PROGRAM

A free one-day training program has been designed for school district staff who are responsible for employee safety and health. These employees are typically from human resources/administration and/or the maintenance and operations department.

Participants learn valuable skills in how to:

- identify and solve safety problems;
- prepare written injury and illness prevention plans; and
- involve other employees in carrying out prevention activities.

The trainings are provided by University of California trainers and are held in convenient locations so participants do not have to travel far to attend. Once they complete the training, trainees become “SASH Coordinators” for their district and receive a certificate from the Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation and the University of California.

SASH MATERIALS

The SASH Program offers a variety of free written materials to help school employees identify and address health and safety issues in the school environment. Materials include:

- An online template for writing an injury and illness prevention plan, with an accompanying Guidebook.
- Factsheets on hazards commonly found in schools.
- Checklists and other tools to help identify problems, investigate and learn from accidents, and keep track of safety activities.
- Tip sheets for employees on the hazards and solutions for their particular occupation.
- A poster for school employees promoting their involvement in safety activities.
- An online Resource Guide that provides additional school-related materials on particular hazards/issues and a list of agencies and organizations.

THE SASH RESOURCE CENTER

The SASH Resource Center is located at UC Berkeley's Labor Occupational Health Program (LOHP). In collaboration with UCLA's Labor Occupational Safety and Health (LOSH) Program, the Resource Center is available to help school districts find additional information and obtain assistance after the trainings.

The SASH Program thanks the following agencies and organizations for their involvement in shaping the SASH Program activities and materials:

California Association of School Business Officials (CASBO)

California Department of Education

California Federation of Teachers (CFT)

California School Employees Association (CSEA)

California Teachers Association (CTA)

Keenan & Associates

North Bay Schools Insurance Authority

San Diego County Schools Risk Management JPA

Schools Insurance Authority

Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation (CHSWC)

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SASH Resource Center
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For more information about the SASH Program contact the organizations above.