THE ROLE OF THE CHEMICAL HYGIENE OFFICER

Excerpt from the NYS School Science Chemical Management Guidance Manual

Every school in New York State should have a designated chemical hygiene officer responsible for the chemical management of school science labs. It is vital that the chemical hygiene officer has proper training in accordance with OSHA Laboratory Standard 29CFR 1910.1450. While it cannot be assumed that the person designated to be the school’s chemical hygiene officer has a background in chemistry or in chemical health & safety, adequate training should be provided. The chemical hygiene officer has the responsibility to conduct and manage a chemical inventory, evaluate chemicals for proper storage and labeling, deem what is appropriate in quantity and what is excess, and know how to dispose of waste chemicals. There are also safety considerations when reviewing chemical inventory such as, what chemicals are potentially explosive or reactive, are there known carcinogens, pharmaceuticals, broken or leaking containers.

DUTIES OF A CHEMICAL HYGIENE OFFICER

1. Work with administrators and other employees to develop and implement appropriate chemical hygiene policies and practices;
2. Monitor procurement, use and disposal of chemicals used in the lab;
3. Review all P.O.s that include chemical reagents;
4. Review all lab procedures, including all new procedures to be introduced;
5. Ensure that staff training and facilities are adequate for materials ordered;
6. Ensure all MSDS forms are available and current;
7. See that appropriate audits are maintained;
8. Help building safety chairperson, principals and department chairs to develop precautions and adequate facilities;
9. Know the current legal requirements concerning regulated substances;
10. Seek ways to improve the chemical hygiene plan;
11. Ensure that workers know and follow the chemical hygiene rules;
12. Provide adequate training for all workers regarding safety, chemical hygiene and chemical hazards;

IN OUR DISTRICTS

Brewster Central School District partnered with Regional Safety Services last month to present a tabletop exercise to the entire Safety Committee. Each person was assigned a table based upon their building assignment. The scenario was an event which affected the entire district. The district used the exercise to identify some areas which present challenges to the district in the event of an emergency. Future meetings are planned to address these challenges.

All of our department’s tabletop exercises are custom written for your district. Interested?
Contact Carol Sneyd
914-248-3854
csneyd@pnwboces.org
13. Determine the appropriate protective equipment required and ensure that it is available and in good working order;
14. Provide regular, formal, chemical hygiene and housekeeping inspections:
   A. Stockrooms and storerooms
   B. Lab ventilation
   C. Sinks and clean up areas
15. Regularly inspect all safety and emergency equipment to ensure it is in good working order:
   A. Fume hoods
   B. Fire equipment
   C. Eye stations and deluge showers
   D. Protective apparel
16. Maintain records:
   A. Training
   B. Inspections
   C. Medical
   D. Inventory
   E. Accidents and spills

SAFETY SUMMIT – THREAT ASSESSMENT SEMINAR

Carol Sneyd, Regional Safety Technician

On October 6, 2016, Regional Safety Services provided an opportunity for members from some of our participating districts to participate in an initial threat assessment seminar. The program was well attended. New York State Trooper Kristi Wilson, Community Outreach Coordinator from NYS Troopers, Troop K, gave an overview of threat assessment from the police perspective. She reminded the participants that if they think that something may be a criminal activity, they should err on the side of caution and call the police. It can muddy the waters if a district investigates an incident without police presence. She also emphasized the idea that schools should partner with the troopers, sheriffs and their local law enforcement agencies in order to keep schools safe.

Trooper Wilson was followed by Dr. Amanda Nickerson, an accomplished author and expert in the development of threat assessment teams. Dr. Nickerson discussed threat assessment focusing mainly on mental health issues such as suicide.

For more information on developing and training your own school threat assessment teams, contact Mike Sellet, Regional Safety Coordinator, at 914-248-2457 or msellet@pnwboces.org.
UPDATES TO OUR CONSULTANT SERVICES

CT WEATHER

The Connecticut Weather Center, Inc. was formed in 1984 under the name of Techni-Weather. The weather service provides weather information to radio stations, newspapers, Superintendent of Schools, contractors, law firms, and more. The CT Weather web site at www.ctweather.com has the latest weather information that is free to the public. The site also offers watches and warnings, the latest pollen, skiing, boat and beach, foliage, and traffic cam information. Power outages, educational links and also the cancellations are offered. The IAN (Internet Access Notification) System is part of the site where Superintendents of Schools can post their latest information, school delays, or notifications on the Internet for all to see. Subscribers to the free e-notification service will be notified when a school system they sign up for posts information. The Connecticut Weather Center is Connecticut’s Weather Authority, offering the OMNI (Official Meteorological Notification Information) Service to all participating schools in the IAN Service. The OMNI Service provides instant notification by e-mail of any weather service warnings that one signs up for. In addition, the storm force service is also available which sends text notifications when severe weather is imminent in your area.

ANONYMOUS ALERTS

What is Anonymous Alerts?
Anonymous Alerts® patented anti-bullying app helps combat bullying and other negative activity in schools by empowering students to come forward to help themselves and other students. Social and peer pressures are some of the hardest obstacles for students to overcome. Now, they can report bullying and safety issues quickly using Anonymous Alerts®.

How do students anonymously report concerns?
Students or parents in the school community can anonymously submit suspicious activity, safety threats, bullying, drug abuse, depression, harassment, family issues and self-harm issues to school administrators or counselors. Students can establish 1-way or anonymous 2-way communications™ with a school official about an incident.

Anonymous Alerts® is already in use by three of our participating school districts helping them to improve student safety by eliminating or reducing issues such as bullying, cyberbullying, weapons and drugs on campus, mental health issues, and more.

Putnam County has partnered with Anonymous Alerts and PNW BOCES, providing grants to cover all training, customization, and posters for Putnam County districts who sign up for the service by 12/23/16.

Contact us for more information on our new consultant services.
cbraden@pnwboces.org