January 2015

**WINTER SAFETY FOR OUR SCHOOLS**

By Carol Sneyd, Regional Safety Technician

In the winter months, our schools have many things to be concerned about beyond testing and teaching. Winter in the Northeast includes poor weather conditions, extreme changes in temperature, wind chills, snow and icy precipitation. We also struggle with fewer hours of sunlight causing more of our students and staff to be on the roads in the dark. In addition, this is the time of year for a rise in the seasonal flu.

The CDC states that the seasonal flu shot is the best and most effective means of avoiding the flu. The second most important way to prevent the flu is frequent hand washing, and remembering to keep your hands away from your face.

The link below is for further guidance from CDC on seasonal flu.

http://www.cdc.gov/flu/school/guidance.htm

Supervisors are responsible for the safety and health of the people who work for them. In the winter, this can be challenging for the Facilities, Operations and Maintenance, and Transportation Departments. OSHA requires that we provide workers, who work in extreme weather conditions, with the appropriate safety gear such as gloves, hats, insulated clothing and slip resistant boots. **Training for winter work should include cold temperature safety, slips trips and falls, and proper techniques for snow removal. All of these short training topics can be presented to your staff by our department. For more information, contact csneyd@pnwboces.org**

The link below is for more information from OSHA about working in winter weather.

https://www.osha.gov/dts/weather/winter_weather/index.html

---

**DID YOU KNOW?**

We have seen an uptick in bomb threats in our districts. Our department has developed a new bomb threat training which includes some very powerful simulated exercises. This training takes an hour and a half and is suitable for anyone who answers the phone.

Please contact Mike Sellet at msellet@pnwboces.org

or Carol Sneyd at csneyd@pnwboces.org

for more information.
NEW EMERGENCY PLANNING TEMPLATE

Beginning February 13, 2015, New York State will begin to roll out new emergency plan templates for schools. Districts have been invited to send two representatives to regional meetings. In our area, there will be meetings on March 5th at Southern Westchester BOCES; March 6th at the Orange County Emergency Operations Center; and April 1st at Dutchess BOCES. For more information go to http://safeschools.ny.gov/.

In April, our department will be offering an opportunity to further explore this template. We will be sending more information at a future date. Remember, Mike and Carol are available to meet individually with your District and Building level teams to support you in updating your plans. Contact Carol Sneyd at csneyd@pnwboces.org

Dates to Remember:

Our next Regional Safety Committee meets on January 22, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in the Projects Building Conference Room on our Main Campus in Yorktown Heights, NY.

For Your Information: Epinephrine Auto-Injectors

Bill A07791 has amended § 912 of the New York State Education Law, to expand the use of Epi-Pens in schools. Epinephrine Auto Injectors may now be kept by the school for use on any individual having anaphylactic symptoms. With this law there are some guidelines from the New York State Department of Health. Below is a link with information from the Westchester Regional EMS Council which includes some important resources.