

January 12, 2011



DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT

1. Monthly Inspection Reports

Copies of the monthly inspection report forms (green) should continue to be sent, as soon as possible, to the District 10 Office. Mike Dodman (C.U.P.E.) and I will be reviewing these inspection forms at the monthly worker meetings. Please make sure that perpetual repeat items and any other major concerns are highlighted. Please ensure that both sides of the inspection forms are completed and signed off prior to sending them in. Representatives can, of course, also continue to forward electronic versions to the District Office (office@osstfd10.ca).

2. Health and Safety Policies and Procedures

The Lambton Kent District School Board has demonstrated that Health and Safety in its facilities is a very important consideration. Health and Safety Policies and Procedures are in place in many departmental areas. There is currently no Science Preparation Course in place for all new hires, or teachers new to teaching science. The Joint Health and Safety Committee recognizes that there is a need for such a course and is investigating how one could be delivered. Administrative Procedures, appertaining to Health and Safety for all subject areas, need to be followed rigorously to avoid possible litigation /Ministry of Labour involvement.

3. Training for Site Representatives

New Health and Safety Certification training (4 days) is already underway – Workshop #6326.

Remaining dates are January 17th, February 16th, March 2nd 2011 – Location: W.D.S.S.

The course provides basic training to workplace health and safety representatives and an understanding of the Occupational Health & Safety Act, as it pertains to Joint Health and Safety Committee. and employer and employee responsibilities. Staff must attend all four days in order to successfully complete Part 1. Both Part 1 and Part 2 must be completed to be fully certified as a Joint Health & Safety Committee Member under the Occupational Health & Safety Act. The Health & Safety Department will cover all registration costs. Supply costs are to be covered by your school, unless you are an actual committee member, then you are covered by Health and Safety. Permission must be obtained from your Principal or Supervisor before registering for such a course.

4. Heath and Safety Audits / Visits to Schools

Both myself and Mike Dodman (C.U.P.E.) can be made available for any monthly site inspection, should any Health and Safety Representatives feel that our presence would provide assistance.

The Lambton Kent District School Board Policy is that five schools within the Board will have their Health and Safety Policies, Procedures and Inspections audited annually. Two secondary schools will be audited this year. They are Wallaceburg District Secondary School (on March 8th 2011) and Northern Collegiate Institute & Vocational School (date to be announced).

5. **MSDS – Labels (Chemicals)**

No printing changes can be made in the current label system being used.

Suggestions, from the Lambton Kent District School Board Health and Safety Officer, to overcome current problems with labelling chemicals are:

- 1) labels can be hand printed for the smaller labels, as long as the information is taken directly from the M.S.D.S. information;
- 2) make a template for a smaller size label;
- 3) purchase a label printer.

6. **Extension Cords**

System wide there is an issue with the quantity of extension cords being used. They should be used on a temporary basis only – they need to be wrapped up at the end of the day and put away. The Joint Health and Safety Committee Representatives enquired as to what is the allowable limit for the “daisy” chain effect – how many can be put together. The Lambton Kent District School Board Health and Safety Officer is currently researching this.

7. **Health and Safety Subject Specific Training / e-Learning**

Web based tutorials are still being developed to allow staff to be trained with respect to Mould, Ladder Use, Slips/Trips and Falls, etc. These are specific to our kind of workplace and should be ready to view in the near future – latest date I have is February 2011.

W.H.I.M.S. training module is expected to be ready in April 2011.

Asbestos training module is expected to be ready in September 2011.

8. **Asbestos Exposure**

It appears that one or more of our colleagues may have been exposed to asbestos dust / fibres when cleaning out a cupboard. This asbestos was contained within some old Bunsen burner pads and wire gauzes. A system wide check has been made of all such equipment and any suspect material has been correctly withdrawn from use. An air quality check of the room in which the asbestos was found has also been carried out and I am pleased to report no adverse findings. At the time of writing I am not absolutely sure if the staff member(s) involved have been medically checked over and if the Ministry of Labour, and Workplace Safety Insurance Board protocols have been correctly followed. Obviously this is being looked into by the OSSTF and I have a Joint Health & Safety Committee meeting on the 12th of January 2011 during which these issues will be discussed.

Dave Page,

Health and Safety Officer

OSSTF District 10