

January 13, 2010



# DISTRICT COUNCIL

## HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT

### 1. **Monthly Inspection Reports:**

Please continue to send copies of the monthly inspection report forms (green) 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).

The new electronic reporting system will, hopefully, be rolled out at the Site Representative Training session in February 2010

### 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 no further news as to when Family Studies and Art/Drama will be unveiled. A Joint Health and Safety Committee meeting is to be held on Friday January 14, 2010, hopefully, more information will be forthcoming then.

### 3. **H1N1 Pandemic Preparedness:**

Guidelines for the Prevention and Management of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 in Elementary and Secondary Schools prepared by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care were sent to all Branch Presidents on 28-10-09. These should be made available to all members.

The OSSTF Occupational Health and Safety Conference held during November 2009 concentrated on this issue. The Lambton Kent District School Board is prepared as well any other organization.

All schools should continue to have an adequate supply of sanitizer for classrooms where soap and water is not available. Paper tissues should also be available for all rooms.

#### **4. Annual Training for Site Representatives:**

Health and Safety Certification: Part 1 - (workplace specific) took place on 24th to 26th Nov. 2009. I have no details as to whether any O.S.S.T.F. member was trained during this time.

My understanding is that Level 2 Certification Training is scheduled to occur sometime between April 9th and April 26th 2010. It was strongly advised by the participants at the last session that this course run 1 day per week over a period of weeks rather than several days in the same week.

The Training Workshop for O.S.S.T.F., C.U.P.E. and Admin Site Representatives has been rescheduled, as per Principals request, for February 2010 – Location / Actual date and format to be announced later.

A J.H.S.C. meeting is to be held on Friday 14th January 2010, hopefully, more information, re dates / location, will be forthcoming then.

#### **5. Health 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 policy is that five schools within the Lambton Kent District School Board will have their Health and Safety Inspections audited annually. It was decided at the J.H.S.C. that the two secondary schools to be audited this year will be A.M.S.S. and J.M.S.S. Schools will be contacted when these audits are to be done. As yet no dates have been set – hopefully they will be set at the upcoming J.H.S.C. meeting.

#### **6. Working Alone:**

No news yet on the recommendation that was to be put forward from the J.H.S.C. for the L.K.D.S.B. to develop an Administrative Procedure for all staff who may find themselves working alone in a facility outside of normal business hours.

#### **7. Designated Substances in Chemical Storage Areas:**

No further news as yet on what steps have been initiated to have an assessment done in all schools on the safe use, storage etc. of Lead, Mercury and Silica based substances. A J.H.S.C. meeting is to be held on Friday 14th January 2010, hopefully, more information will be forthcoming then.

#### **8. Health and Safety e-Learning:**

Web based tutorials are now being delivered to your mailbox. These are specific to our kind of workplace and hopefully will remove the need to watch those infernal condescending videos at staff meetings! However, in view of the fact that many of these are scheduled to be completed over the next few months, decisions need to be made as to when they should be completed. Historically Health and Safety Training has occurred on PD Days or at Staff Meetings etc.

Do we now have to do it on our own time in addition to all the other initiatives coming out of PD days and Staff Meetings?

***Dave Page  
Health and Safety Officer***