

**PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
OCCUPATIONAL**

SAFETY AND HEALTH  
PROGRAM  
**“PEOSH”**

# PEOSH

Adopted the Hazard Communication Standards (HCS) to align New Jersey's regulatory requirements and standards with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements.

# Right To Know

YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW ABOUT  
HAZARDS IN YOUR WORKPLACE

&

YOU ALSO HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW  
HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM  
THOSE POTENTIAL HAZARDS

# RIGHT TO KNOW

THE PURPOSE OF THE *HCS* IS TO  
COMMUNICATE HAZARD  
INFORMATION TO EMPLOYEES SO  
EVERYONE CAN WORK SAFELY AND  
PREVENT SAFETY AND HEALTH  
PROBLEMS

# QUESTIONS???

- What is a hazardous substance?
- What determines its' effectiveness?
- Forms??
- Possible points of entry??
- Types of damage they can cause??
- Acute vs. chronic??

# What is a hazardous substance?

- A hazardous material is any substance or mixture of substances having properties capable of producing adverse effects on the health and safety or the environment of a human being. Hazardous materials include hazardous substances, hazardous waste, hazardous chemicals and medical waste.
- This term includes chemicals, mixtures of chemicals, or materials as defined in the List of Lists for Regulated Hazardous Substances.

# Forms

- Gases and Vapors
- Mists
- Dusts, fumes and smoke

# What makes a chemical hazardous to a person's health?

In order for a chemical to become hazardous to a person's health, it must first contact or enter the body and the chemical must have some biological effect on the body.



# Possible points of entry

- Inhalation (breathing)
- Skin contact
- Digestive system (ingestion or eating)
- Injection
- The eyes may also be a route of entry.

Regardless of the way the chemical gets into the body, once it is in the body it is distributed to anywhere in the body by the blood stream. In this way, the chemicals can attack and harm organs which are far away from the original point of entry as well as where they entered the body.

# Acute vs. chronic

- Acute-a disease with a rapid onset and/or a short course
- Chronic- a disease that is persistent or long-lasting

## Hazardous waste can exhibit the following characteristics:

- **Flammable**-how easily something will burn or ignite, causing fire or combustion
- **Corrosive**-substance that will destroy and damage other substances with which it comes into contact.
- **Reactive**-react with water violently or to produce toxic gases or explosive mixtures,
- **Toxic** -is the degree to which a substance can damage an organism

# Employer Responsibilities:

- Right to Know Survey
- Central file
- Label all containers
- Post the RTK poster
- Educate employees
- RTK information

# Employee Rights:

- Receive an RTK Survey
- Receive Hazardous Fact Sheet or Material Safety Data Sheet
- Education and training
- Work with properly labeled containers
- Refuse to work with a hazardous chemical if you have not received information required pertaining to chemical

## To Request Information:

- Submit request in writing
- Date requested
- Make a copy

You cannot be punished for exercising your rights!

If you think you are being penalized you can contact the New Jersey Dept. of Labor at  
609-292-7036

# Employee Responsibilities:

- Read and follow label directions
- Practice safe work habits
- Read all MSDS and HFS
- Ask questions
- Use common sense

# What is an MSDS?

A Material Safety Data Sheet is a detailed information bulletin prepared by the manufacturer or importer of a chemical that describes the physical and chemical properties, physical and health hazards, routes of exposure, precautions for safe handling and use, emergency and first-aid procedures, and control measures.



# What is an HFS?

---

Hazardous Fact Substance Sheets are prepared on pure substances and contain information on health hazards, exposure limits, personal protective equipment, proper handling, first aid, and emergency procedures for fires and spills.

# New Regulations

- Labels and Pictograms are the major changes on the new MSDS forms
- Labels should contain the proper information according to the new standard
- Pictograms are pictures placed on the MSDS and HFS that depict hazards caused by hazardous chemicals
- 29 CFR1910.1200 is the new standard used for safety and hazards
- See attached handout for new pictograms

# Labels

- All chemicals transferred into smaller bottles **MUST** have a label placed on it
- Labels **MUST** have same information on the **original supplier label**

# Chemical List

- Keep a list of all chemicals on hand/ordered in either your classroom or supply cabinet for teachers, custodians, trainer and nurses
- List should include **supplier, exact chemical name and quantity**
- A copy must be sent to RTK Coordinator (Scott T. Bisig)
- **Every MSDS** should be forwarded to RTK Coordinator with the name of **your school** on it and a copy retained for your files

# Common Environmental School Issues

1. Air Quality
2. Chemical Disposal
3. Heat
4. Mold
5. Noise

# Common Hazards Found in Public Schools

1. roof renovation, painting and construction work
2. indoor air quality
3. carpeting
4. carcinogens
5. science laboratories
6. darkroom - photo developing
7. art rooms

# Air Quality

Poor indoor air quality can impact the comfort and health of students and staff, which, in turn, can affect concentration, attendance, and student/staff performance.

## Some Causes of Poor Indoor Air Quality:

- Asbestos
- Bacteria, fungi & mold
- Carbon monoxide
- Particulates
- Ozone
- Temperature & humidity
- Poor ventilation



# Chemical Disposal

- Existing stocks of outdated, unknown, excessive, or unnecessarily hazardous chemicals are present in many schools.
- High schools and technical schools have the most chemicals.
- Chemical waste **cannot** be poured down the sink or put in the trash!!!

# Heat

- Both an educational and health issue of New Jersey schools
- There is no government standard that regulates excessive heat in schools
- Heat related illnesses:
  - heat rash
  - heat exhaustion
  - dehydration
  - heat stroke
  - heat cramps

# Mold

- Can grow on almost everything!!
- PEOSH only has a standard that deals with “visible” mold not “hidden mold”
- Main areas of mold growth are areas that are subject to flowing water, moisture, or high humidity
- People who suffer from allergies or respiratory ailments are more prone to suffer from exposure to mold

# Health Effects Associated With Mold:

- Irritated eyes, nose, throat, skin, & lungs
- Allergic reactions
- Problems breathing

# Noise

- Unwanted sound - has become an extensive occupational health problem
- Can occur in all types of settings including our schools
- Hazardous sounds can cause hearing loss if exposure is continual over long periods of time
- Can be controlled by protecting hearing by limiting exposure, using protective equipment, eliminating the source, or reducing the level of sound

# Inquiries

Any questions or concerns contact:

RTK Coordinator

Scott T. Bisig

Ext. 4728