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SASH TRAININGS

Kevlar Sleeves and Chest Protectors for Special Education Staff

During SASH trainings with school district personnel, we often hear about the health and safety challenges special education teachers and para-educators face working with students that have behavior issues. LOHP has worked with the Commission on Health and Safety and Workers’ Compensation to analyze school district data to assess the extent of this problem. We found that Special Education teachers and teaching assistants receive approximately 37% of the injuries suffered by elementary and secondary school employees across the state. These include injuries caused by violence or injury by another person as well as slips and falls.

At a recent SASH training held in Modesto, we learned about a strategy the Stanislaus County Office of Education is implementing to address the issue of behavior-related injuries to special education teachers and para-educators. The Stanislaus COE says they have quite a few students with special needs who bite and scratch. Out of a concern for their school employees, Stanislaus COE has begun providing special education teachers and para-educators working with these students with Kevlar Sleeves. The sleeves are very reasonably priced and can be machine washed - although they need to be replaced periodically due to stretching. Neither students’ teeth nor fingernails get through the Kevlar.
May 20, 2015
Alturas, CA
9am-4pm

May 21, 2015
Yreka, CA
9am-4pm

June 25, 2015
Lakeport, CA
9am-4pm

For more information and to register, visit lohp.org/SASH.

View all LOHP trainings.

Sleeves. Stanislaus COE also offers female teachers and para-educators chest protectors that can be worn either under or over their clothes when they are working with students who hit or bite.

For more information about what Stanislaus COE is doing, contact Lynda Adams, Safety Coordinator for Stanislaus County Office of Education at 209-238-1632 or ladams@stancoe.org.

State Health Department Webinar on Healthy Cleaning Practices

Here is a message from our good friends at the state health department’s Occupational Health Branch:

You are invited to attend a webinar on Healthy Cleaning Best Practices for Schools on Monday, May 11, 2015 from 10-11am. The webinar is hosted by:

- California Association of School Business Officials
- California Department of Education
- California Department of Public Health’s Work-Related Asthma Prevention Program
- Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District

Presenters will discuss the recent CDPH publication "Healthy Cleaning and Asthma-Safer Schools: A How-To Guide" (October 2014). Learn about healthier and asthma-safer products and practices, how green cleaning supports good indoor environmental quality, and the Three Pillars of California Green Ribbon Schools. You will also hear from an Operations Supervisor about his district’s success from using the Guide.

To register for the webinar, click here. To learn more about the CDPH publication, visit the Healthy Cleaning & Asthma-Safer Schools Guide and Video webpage.

We continue to solicit your involvement in this newsletter. Please send your questions, challenges, successes and/or suggestions that might benefit other districts to kellychan@berkeley.edu.

School Action for Safety and Health (SASH) is a program of the California Department of Industrial Relations, Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation, and the Labor Occupational Health Program at the University of California, Berkeley.