

EMPLOYEE SAFETY

The Board of Trustees is committed to maximizing employee safety and believes that workplace safety is every employee's responsibility. Working conditions and equipment shall comply with standards prescribed by federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

No employee shall be required or permitted to be in any place of employment which is unsafe or unhealthful. (Labor Code 6402)

The Board expects all employees to use safe work practices and, to the extent possible, correct any unsafe conditions which may occur. If an employee is unable to correct an unsafe condition, he/she shall immediately report the problem to the Superintendent or designee.

The Superintendent or designee shall promote safety and correct any unsafe work practices through education and enforcement.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish and implement a written injury and illness prevention program in accordance with law. (Labor Code 6401.7)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure the ready availability of first aid materials at district workplaces and shall make effective provisions, in advance, for prompt medical treatment in the event of an employee's serious injury or illness. (8 CCR 3400)

No employee shall be discharged or discriminated against for making complaints, instituting proceedings, or testifying with regard to employee safety or health or for participating in any occupational health and safety committee established pursuant to Labor Code 6401.7. (Labor Code 6310)

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The Superintendent or designee shall provide and implement safety devices, safeguards, methods, and processes that are reasonably adequate to render the employment and place of employment safe and healthful. (Labor Code 6401)

Injury and Illness Prevention Program

The district's injury and illness prevention program shall cover all district employees and all other workers whom the district controls or directs and directly supervises on the job to the extent that the workers are exposed to hazards specific to their worksite and job assignment. The obligation of contractors or other employers who control or direct and supervise their own employees on the job shall not be affected by the district's injury and illness prevention program. (Labor Code 6401.7)

The district's injury and illness prevention program shall include: (Labor Code 6401.7; 8 CCR 3203)

1. The name/position of the person(s) with authority and responsibility for implementing the program.
2. A system for ensuring that employees comply with safe and healthful work practices, which may include, but not be limited to:
 - a. Recognition of employees who follow safe and healthful work practices
 - b. Training and retraining programs
 - c. Disciplinary actions
3. A system for communicating with employees, in a form readily understandable by all employees, on matters related to occupational health and safety, including provisions designed to encourage employees to report hazards at the worksite without fear of reprisal. The communications system may include, but not be limited to:
 - a. Meetings
 - b. Training programs
 - c. Posting
 - d. Written communications
 - e. A system of anonymous notification by employees about hazards
 - f. A labor/management safety and health committee

4. Procedures for identifying and evaluating workplace hazards, including scheduled periodic inspections to identify unsafe conditions and work practices. Such inspections shall be made:
 - a. Whenever new substances, processes, procedures, or equipment that represents a new occupational safety or health hazard is introduced into the workplace
 - b. Whenever the district is made aware of a new or previously unrecognized hazard
5. A procedure for investigating occupational injury or illness.
6. Methods and/or procedures for correcting unsafe or unhealthful conditions, work practices, and work procedures in a timely manner, based on the severity of the hazard, when the hazard is observed or discovered.

When an imminent hazard exists which cannot be immediately abated without endangering employee(s) and/or property, these procedures shall call for the removal of all exposed staff from the area except those necessary to correct the hazardous condition. Employees needed to correct the condition shall be provided necessary safeguards.

7. Provision of training and instruction as follows:
 - a. To all new employees
 - b. To all employees given new job assignments for which training has not previously been received
 - c. Whenever new substances, processes, procedures, or equipment is introduced into the workplace and represents a new hazard
 - d. Whenever the district is made aware of a new or previously unrecognized hazard
 - e. To supervisors, to familiarize them with the safety and health hazards to which employees under their immediate direction and control may be exposed

Labor/Management Safety and Health Committee

The district's labor/management safety and health committee shall: (8 CCR 3203)

1. Meet regularly, but not less than quarterly.
2. Prepare and make available to affected employees written records of the safety and health issues discussed at committee meetings and maintained for review by the California Department of Industrial Relations' Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) upon request. These records shall be maintained for at least one year.

3. Review results of the periodic, scheduled worksite inspections.
4. Review investigations of occupational accidents and causes of incidents resulting in occupational injury or illness or exposure to hazardous substances. As appropriate, the committee may submit suggestions to the Superintendent or designee regarding the prevention of future incidents.
5. Review investigations of alleged hazardous conditions brought to the attention of any committee member. When determined necessary by the committee, it may conduct its own inspection and investigation to assist in remedial solutions.
6. Submit recommendations to assist in the evaluation of employee safety suggestions.
7. Upon request of Cal/OSHA, verify abatement action taken by the district to abate citations issued by Cal/OSHA.

Hearing Protection

Whenever employee noise exposure equals or exceeds the standards specified in law, the Superintendent or designee shall implement a hearing conservation program in accordance with state and federal regulations, including, when required, monitoring of sound levels, audiometric testing of affected employees, the provision of hearing protectors, and employee training. (8 CCR 5095-5100; 29 CFR 1910.95)

Eye Safety Devices

Eye safety devices shall be worn by employees whenever they are engaged in or observing an activity involving hazards or hazardous substances likely to cause injury to the eyes. (Education Code 32030-32034)

First Aid and Medical Services

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure the ready availability of medical personnel for advice and consultation on matters of industrial health or injury. Whenever a workplace is not in close proximity to an infirmary, clinic, or hospital where all injured employees may be treated, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that at least one employee is adequately trained to provide first aid. (8 CCR 3400)

The Superintendent or designee shall make adequate first aid materials readily available for employees at every worksite. Such materials shall be approved by a consulting physician and shall be kept in a sanitary and usable condition. The Superintendent or designee shall frequently inspect all first aid materials and replenish them as necessary. (8 CCR 3400)

To avoid unnecessary delay in medical treatment in the event of an employee's serious injury or illness, the Superintendent or designee shall use one or more of the following: (8 CCR 3400)

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1. A communication system for contacting a physician or emergency medical service, such as access to 911 or equivalent telephone system. The communication system or the employees using the system shall have the ability to direct emergency services to the location of the injured or ill employee.
2. Readily accessible and available on-site treatment facilities suitable for treatment of reasonably anticipated injury and illness.
3. Proper equipment for prompt medical transport when transportation of injured or ill employees is necessary and appropriate.