Zoom In on Holiday Safety

We at Regional Safety Services want to wish you all a SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON.

To help you navigate the holidays safely, click on the picture for the CDC Holiday Song or on the link below for some holiday safety tips from the Consumer Product Safety Council.

Holiday Safety

Regional Safety Committee Meeting
November 29, 2018

On November 29, the Regional Safety Committee met at the Regional Safety Services Offices on the PNW BOCES Fox Meadow Campus to discuss violence prevention and fire safety.

Guest speaker Kristi Wilson, from the New York State Police Department, spoke about Violence Prevention in Schools and addressed training and Lockdown drills. The Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) has developed a training program for all staff and faculty in schools. The program takes 2.5 hours and is suitable for a staff development day. While emergency response teams and administrators are well versed on emergency preparedness, sometimes other faculty and staff are not. This program is recommended to fill that void.

Ed Braddick of Facilities Inspections Services also spoke about fire inspections and the
top fire violations. This year fire inspections will begin March 15 and end April 30. Schedule early to avoid the rush, and consider scheduling a pre-fire inspection to identify any issues before the formal inspection. Contact our office at 914-248-3692 for scheduling.

Indoor Air Quality and Mold Education

Many area schools, businesses and homes experienced increased levels of mold over the summer due to the warm, moist environment. Any time the relative humidity reaches greater than 60%, mold tends to grow. According to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, mold and mildew are fungi that spread spores, which, when inhaled, can cause allergic reactions in some people. Molds can grow on rotting logs and fallen leaves, in compost piles and on grasses and grains. Unlike pollens, molds do not die with the first killing frost, but most outdoor molds become inactive during the winter. In the spring they grow on plants killed by the cold. Indoors, fungi grow in damp areas. The symptoms of mold allergies are similar to the symptoms of other allergies such as sneezing, itching, runny nose, congestion, and dry scaling skin. Mold can also trigger asthma in some people.

The good news is that most molds only thrive in high humidity, so once the heat is on and the air gets drier, the molds become dormant. If your staff is concerned about mold or Indoor Air Quality in the building, contact our office for assistance. We have our own basic Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) equipment as well as two consultants who can provide services.

ALERRT/CRASE Training Held at PNW BOCES

On December 6, Regional Safety Services hosted a timely, powerful training by Sgt. Amery Bernhardt and Sgt. Vincent Antonecchia of the Westchester County Police Department. ALERRT/CRASE, or Civilian Response to Active Shooter Training, is important because it reminds us that active shooters can be anywhere, and we need to be prepared for these events, as we have seen an uptick of incidents.

One way to prepare is to mentally script your response to a scenario. Ask yourself, "What would I do if...." Familiarize yourself with your surroundings. Find the exits, and any other ways out in case of an emergency. If you can’t leave, where can you
hide, or can you barricade yourself into a space? If all else fails, and no other action is possible, defending yourself may be necessary. Having a plan in action is key to safety.

**Stop the Bleed**

After the CRASE training, our participants received Stop the Bleed training. Stop the Bleed is a national movement to teach everyone how to stop catastrophic bleeding. According to the movement’s promo information, no matter how rapid the arrival of professional emergency responders, bystanders will always be the first on the scene. A person who is bleeding can die from blood loss within 5 minutes. Stop the Bleed training is quick, easy and gives the trainee valuable tools to respond - at work, at home or even on the road.

For further information contact Frank Guglieri at fguglieri@pnwboces.org

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**Upcoming Events**

**January 10, 2019**

12:00 pm to 3:00 pm

**Emergency Response Planning for Persons with Special Needs**
**Lunch n’ Learn Program**
*Building 1 Conference Room, PNW BOCES Fox Meadow Campus*

**January 31, 2019**

8:00 am to 10:00 am

**Regional Safety Committee Meeting**
*Building 1 Conference Room, PNW BOCES Fox Meadow Campus*

To see all programs and events planned for this year, view our [Full Calendar of Events](#) on our web page.

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**Regional Safety Services**

Snapshot on Safety is the Regional Safety Services newsletter to help keep you informed about current topics in health and safety in our schools. Our department provides a wide variety of safety programs and services. This year alone, we have provided three seminars and several Lunch ‘n’ Learn programs. We have developed an emergency response team training program, which is modular and allows school teams to work at their own pace. Our consultants include air quality, environmental and chemical management, private investigations, and topical speakers. For more detailed information visit our website.