FIRE SAFETY

Every October we celebrate Fire Safety Month. Frequently this involves a visit to your elementary schools by members of your local fire department with the fire trucks. Once the trucks leave and the holidays approach, we may be tempted to forget fire safety.

We recommend that you remind your staff of some basic fire safety items:

- Hallways need to be clear of desks, carts, boxes of paper, chairs, and anything that could impede the quick exit from a building in an emergency.
- School building exterior and interior doors have a fire rating. This means that they have been tested to resist burning in a fire. ANY flammable material added to these doors can decrease the fire rating and is against the fire code.
- Door frames are considered part of the door and may not have garlands or paper borders affixed to them.
- Decorations and art may not cover more than 20% of hallway walls.
- Decorations and art may not cover more than 50% of any given classroom wall.
- Decorations and storage on shelving may not be closer than two feet to the ceiling.

DID YOU KNOW?

Chemical Waste Management

Noel Russ at Miller Environmental Group is our go-to person for advice and expertise in the more difficult waste management needs.

If your district is due for a chemical cleanout, please remember that it takes almost a month from the time we give them the disposal inventory to the actual pick up date.

"Why?" you may ask. The staff at Miller Environmental Group makes sure that all of the documentation is in place before they
• Extension cords are for temporary use. Do not use more than one in a "chain" and do not overload power strips.
• Rescue windows must be free of ALL materials ALL of the time.
• Classroom doors must be closed and latched unless they are held open with an electromagnetic latching system.

Following these simple rules will go a long way to keeping our staff and students safe.

VAPING: A NATIONAL CRISIS

According to the NY Times, as of Oct. 9, there have been 1,080 vaping illnesses and 24 deaths. The CDC is recommending that parents and health care providers know the symptoms that have been reported regarding the lung injury attributed to e-cigarettes.

Symptoms of lung injury reported by some patients in this outbreak.
• Patients in the investigation by the CDC have reported symptoms such as:
  • coughing, shortness of breath, or chest pain
  • nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
  • fatigue, fever, or abdominal pain
• Some patients have reported that their symptoms developed over a few days, while others have reported that their symptoms developed over several weeks. A lung infection does not appear to be causing the symptoms.

To help our districts and others, our department has developed resources on vaping, including two videos for parents and educators about vape products and the effects of vaping. See links below.

Vaping 101 What to Look For
Vaping 101 How to Talk to Children

REGIONAL SAFETY COMMITTEE

The first meeting of the Regional Safety Committee was held on September 26, 2019. This committee is schedule the date. This is to decrease the possibility for cost overages.

Our department can help you to prepare the inventory and will assist you with this process.

WEATHER PREDICTION AND REPORTING

OmniWeather's Annual Weather and Warning Service can help you protect your staff and students.

Notifications are provided as needed, and service includes unlimited call-in phone access to their meteorologists.

Sign up for their Winter Storm Advisory Service.

OmniWeather winter storm advisory service helps you make the right decisions at the right time when facing winter weather threats - helping you to protect and make the best use of your resources.

For more info, contact:
Cynthia Braden Sr. Office Asst.
made up of facilities directors and other district representatives with an interest in the safety of their schools.

Some topics that we discussed were:
- Differences between required safety teams and committees.
- Protecting student data law - Ed Law 2-D Regulations (Part 121).
- Mandated Training Checklist, developed by our office.
- SBGA Required Task Checklist, developed by the committee - review and updates.
- Lead in Water Testing 2020 - updates.
- NYSED Emergency Plan Checklists.
- Planning Section Chief Binders.
- Discussion regarding service of several of our consultant vendors.

Meetings are held every other month. The next meeting is November 21 from 8 am to 10 am, in Building 1 on our Fox Meadow Campus.

Visit our website

NOVEMBER EVENTS

November at RSS is going to be action-packed. We have several programs to offer. In addition to assisting our districts with emergency response team training and health and safety committees, we will be offering the following on our campuses. See the link to My Learning Plan below.

My Learning Plan

November 7 - Threat Assessment Training
November 12 - Scenarios for Reunification - tabletop exercises
November 21 - Regional Safety Committee
November 21 - Emergency Planning for Persons with Special Needs Lunch n Learn

CONTACT US

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**Service and Innovation Through Partnership**

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### STAY IN THE KNOW

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  DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT  
- Lynn Allen, Ed.D  
  ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

### BOARD MEMBERS
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