

New York State School Safety Group 491 Safe Schools Agenda

Route to:

___ Superintendent
___ School Business Off.
___ Athletic Director
___ Supt. Bldgs/Grounds
___ Site Administrators
___ Transportation Dir.
___ Lunch Director
___ Classroom Teachers

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A monthly service provided to help you with your efforts to make your school safe for students, staff and the public

Methamphetamine Awareness

Recent changes in New York State law now require school personnel who are mandated reporters of suspected child abuse or maltreatment incidents, and who as part of their usual responsibility visit children's homes, to report any signs of an unlawful methamphetamine laboratory. (See www.emsc.nysed.gov/sss/SDFSCA/methawareness.htm.)

The law requires organizations that employ mandated reporters to provide these employees with information and training that will help them identify these unlawful labs. **We suggest that, because of the devastating effects on individuals of all ages – staff as well as students – the entire school community be made aware of the dangers of methamphetamine (meth) use.**

Meth is a dangerous, highly addictive and illegal drug that is produced in illegal laboratories with a number of common, readily available products. It has a high potential for abuse and addiction. The physical effects of the drug are debilitating and sometimes irreversible. It is referred to by many names such as "speed," "meth," and "chalk."

The meth epidemic started on the west coast and then moved to the Midwest where it has had its greatest effects so far. Meth labs have now moved into eastern states. In New York, there were 3 clandestine lab incidents in 1999, 2 in 2000, 8 in 2001, 26 in 2002, 73 in 2003, and 53 in 2004. (There were significantly more incidents in all of the other eastern states.)

Crystal Methamphetamine is also available by mail, and via the internet, as evidenced by the recent arrest of a Canadian citizen as the result of a DEA undercover operation. The other major sources originate from Mexican drug trafficking organizations and clandestine rural labs.

These "rural" labs are extremely dangerous and pose a severe hazard to anyone in or near them: to children, neighbors, first responders, social workers and others who may unknowingly enter the lab.

The manufacture of meth has a severe impact on the environment. Meth releases poisonous gas into the atmosphere and creates pounds of toxic waste. These often get dumped down household drains, in yards, or on rural roads.

Other sources of information on Methamphetamine:

- ☠ The New York State Methamphetamine Electronic Clearinghouse: www.oasas.state.ny.us/meth.
- ☠ National Institute on Drug Abuse, NIDA InfoFacts: Methamphetamine: www.nida.nih.gov/Infofacts/methamphetamine.html.
- ☠ Executive Office of the President, Office of National Drug Control Policy, ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse: www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/factsht/methamph/.

Visit our Website at www.nysgroup491.com

Email: info@nysgroup491.com

Program Administrator: Professional Underwriters, 1-800-833-8822

- ☒ KCI Anti-Meth Site, “Manufacturing of Methamphetamine,”
www.kci.org/meth_info/making_meth.htm.
- ☒ New York State Governor’s Press Release, “Governor Signs Law to Combat Manufacturing of Methamphetamine.”
www.ny.gov/governor/press/05/aug10_hm.
- ☒ KCI Anti-Meth Site, “Is There a Meth Lab Cookin’ In Your Neighborhood?”
www.kci.org/meth_info/neighborhood_lab.htm.

Workers are Safer on the Job?

According to National Safety Council statistics twice as many workers - 6.8 million - were seriously injured while off the job than were injured while working in 2004. Further, about 90% of the injury related deaths involving workers occurred off the job.

Workplace death rates are down 17% since 1992, but fatalities occurring off the job went up 14% during the same period.

Off-the-job injuries accounted for more than twice as many lost workdays as workplace injuries in 1994.

The costs of off-the-job accidents is enormous in terms of lost wages and productivity, medical and disability payments and training for substitute employees.

All of which testify to the value of energetic safety programs which help keep employees safe at all times both on and off the job. (See Safe Schools Agenda, February 2006.)

Housekeeping Checklist

When was the last time top management conducted a walk-around to check the safety of all walkway surfaces? Here is a sample checklist to use as the basis for such an inspection. Be sure to modify, add, and subtract to fit your situation. *

- ✓ Is a documented, functioning housekeeping program in place?
- ✓ Are all worksites clean, sanitary, and orderly?
- ✓ Are work surfaces kept dry or are appropriate means taken to assure the surfaces are slip resistant?

- ✓ Are all spilled hazardous materials or liquids, including blood and other potentially infectious materials cleaned up immediately and according to proper procedures?
- ✓ Is combustible scrap, debris and waste stored safely and removed from the worksite promptly?
- ✓ Is all regulated waste discarded according to federal, state and local regulations governing bloodborne pathogens?
- ✓ Are accumulations of combustible dust routinely removed from elevated surfaces including the overhead structures of buildings, etc.?
- ✓ Are covered metal waste cans used for oily and paint-soaked waste?
- ✓ Are aisles and passageways kept clear?
- ✓ Are wet surfaces covered with non-slip materials?
- ✓ Are holes in the floor, sidewalk or other walking surface repaired properly, covered or otherwise made safe?
- ✓ Is there safe clearance for walking in aisles?
- ✓ Are changes in direction or elevation readily identifiable?
- ✓ Are standard guardrails provided wherever aisle or walkway surfaces are elevated more than 30 inches above any adjacent floor or the ground?
- ✓ Are floor openings guarded by a cover or a guardrail on all sides?
- ✓ Are toeboards installed around the edges of permanent floor openings?
- ✓ Are floor or wall openings in fire resistive construction provided with doors or covers compatible with the fire rating of the structure and provided with a self-closing feature when appropriate?
- ✓ Is material on elevated surfaces piled, stacked or racked in a manner to prevent it from tipping, falling, collapsing, rolling or spreading?

*For more checklist items see OSHA Handbook for Small Businesses.