

Schedule lead testing for your school district's drinking water

Community water districts statewide are required to complete lead sampling of the drinking water supplies of K-12 public schools, day care centers and preschools on public school properties built before 2010, per Assembly Bill 746, which took effect on January 1 of this year. Water districts must complete this mandatory sampling by July 1, 2019.

Most public K-12 schools in California are collectively served by some 1,200 community water districts throughout the state. While these community water districts regularly test drinking water for lead, clean water at school campuses can still become lead-contaminated by corroded pipes or old fixtures that are still in use.

Lead-sampling is done at drinking fountains, at faucets that supply water for human use and at food-preparation sites. Water districts must report test results within two business days if any samples show lead levels above 15 parts per billion (ppb), and have 10 business days to report results if test samples show lead levels at/less than 15 ppb.

If a school's water lead level exceeds 15 ppb, then the water district is required to sample the water where it enters the facility to help determine the possible source of the lead. The school also must take several actions, including a shutdown of all fountains and faucets showing high lead levels. The school likewise must provide potable drinking water until the situation is resolved, and notify parents and guardians of the water test findings. Additional testing may be required to determine if some or all of the school's fountains and faucets need to be shut down as well.



California has newer infrastructure and therefore less lead-tainted water than is found in many other parts of the country, and less than 1 percent of all school-tested samples collected to date show elevated levels of lead. However, national events have highlighted the importance of ongoing water quality monitoring and, as a result, Governor Jerry Brown in 2015 directed the state water board to include schools in the same regular water quality testing programs that community water districts offer to their customers.

If your school district has not yet had its water tested by a local water district, an official request for this must be made. For helpful information and a request letter template, visit www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinkingwater/certlic/drinkingwater/leadsamplinginschools.html.

For a map of the schools that have been tested and an overview of the results, visit: <https://waterboards.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=9d17731cae2c4452957fadc5d8ee2d75>.





Mandated reporter training targets child abuse and neglect



Per AB 1432 and Education Code Section 44691, local education agencies (LEAs) are required to provide training to their employees in child abuse detection and mandated reporting obligations under the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA). This training helps staff recognize child abuse and neglect, and reminds staff members to report *any* suspicion of abuse *immediately* to local law enforcement and Child Protective Services as required by law. The mandatory obligation to report abuse and neglect is crystal clear and must be followed by all required school personnel.

As of January 1, 2015, Assembly Bill 1432 (D-Gatto) requires all LEAs to train *all* employees *each* year, within six weeks of the start of the school year, on what they need to know to identify and report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect. "All employees" means anybody working on the LEAs' behalf, such as teachers, teachers' aides, classified employees, and any other employees whose duties bring them into direct contact with and involve supervision of students. LEAs also must develop a process to prove that employees received training.

The consequences for failing to report involve personal liability. Mandated reporters who fail to make required reports are guilty of misdemeanors punishable by up to six months in jail and/or up to \$1,000 fines (California Penal Code Section 11166(c)). Further information on the requirements can be found at <http://educators.mandatedreporterca.com>.

SIA has partnered with Hour Zero Online to develop a mandated reporter training program for all SIA member districts. This training program complies with 2015 California Department of Education requirements and allows districts to use an online learning management system to *assign* the training to all employees and *track* the completion of the training electronically.

HZ Online features include trackable training, training testing, easy monitoring, compliance reporting, program management, auto-reminders, annual requirements checklists and data update reports.

LEAs only need to identify staff members to serve as district-wide system administrators, who in turn will help enroll their districts in the program. HZ Online provides all training and guidance. It's simple and easy to get started.

Contact Jennifer McCain at jmccain@sia-jpa.org for further information.

The mandatory obligation to report abuse and neglect is crystal clear and must be followed by all required school personnel.



Protect schools from wildfire with commonsense precautions

October 7-13 is Fire Prevention Week

Many member district schools are located in at-risk areas with respect to wildfire. In California, fire risk is as real for urban and suburban districts as it is for districts in more rural areas.

Nationally, in the years between 2011 and 2015, fire departments responded to nearly 5,000 structure fires at education sites; nearly seven in 10 of those fires occurred at K-12 schools.

Creating defensible spaces around buildings can help reduce the severity of fire events by preventing flames from spreading from one structure to another and from one area to another. Defensible spaces also provide firefighters with property access and safer areas in which to fight fires.

California law (PRC 4291) requires property owners and/or occupants to maintain 100 feet of defensible space around all structures. This space is categorized by zones: Zone 1 is "lean, clean and green," with all dead plants, grass and weeds removed, and roof and rain gutters cleared of pine needles and debris. Also, tree branches should be trimmed back to 10 feet from structures. Zone 2 is considered a reduced-fuel area, with grass mowed to a maximum height of 4 inches, and with vertical and horizontal clearance between trees, shrubs and grasses.

To learn more about creating defensible spaces for schools and homes, visit http://www.calfire.ca.gov/communications/downloads/fact_sheets/2007DefSpaceBrochure.pdf.



Designed with school district leaders in mind.

Special event kicks off SIA's new Leadership Academy

SIA recently hosted a special day dedicated to helping members develop their leadership skills. "Coaching U" was an introductory event for SIA's new Leadership Academy that provided attendees with numerous tools and techniques to use in their daily school interactions.

The day began with attendees evaluating their own leadership skills. Assessment areas included performance coaching, conflict resolution, team engagement, time and space management, and communication. Michelle Filicchia of Raising the Bar Performance Consulting Services discussed how the assessments enabled the participants to rate themselves on these key leadership topics and evaluate their strengths and weaknesses.



Attendees participate in a team-building activity.

There were several speakers throughout the day. Jane Lorand, CEO of Future Insight Maps, discussed how different types of issues need different types of leadership methods. For example, she explained that while some complex issues might be unsolvable, they also can be broken down and improved. Gavin Ambrosini, an executive leadership coach with the Ambrosini Group, demonstrated how empathy can foster trust and better listening skills.

Twin Rivers USD Deputy Superintendent Bill McGuire and SIA's Director of Prevention Services Lisa Konarski shared ideas for engaging team members. Participants learned the importance of building on strengths while recognizing that everyone on the team has a role to play. The final speaker of the day, Kevin Eikenberry of The Kevin Eikenberry Group, discussed the true nature of resistance and why traditional approaches to resistance don't work.

The Leadership Academy was created to help managers become more effective and confident in their leadership roles. SIA's Prevention Specialist Michele Mariscal noted that leadership coaching is essential for those who direct people and programs on a daily basis. The Coaching U event, which kicked off the Leadership Academy, introduced a sample of the courses that SIA will be offering throughout the year.

To learn more about the Leadership Academy, contact Michele Mariscal at mmariscal@sia-jpa.org or Lisa Konarski at lkonarski@sia-jpa.org.

Upcoming Leadership Academy class:

October 17 & 18, 2018

Personify Leadership

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Personify Leadership is an engaging two-day, highly interactive program that provides comprehensive skill development for leaders. It's designed to be easy to share and retain, and features eight specific categories. Each individual category – "body part" – is directly related to a leadership skill or competency. The training focuses on practical skills that can be applied immediately. The learning objectives for each competency, or body part, are as follows:

- **The heart of a leader**
Be a leader whose intention is to look out for the best interest of others.
- **The mind of a leader**
Be a leader who is emotionally resilient.
- **The ears of a leader**
Be a leader who takes time to truly listen to others.
- **The voice of a leader**
Be a leader who communicates a message that resonates with those who receive it.
- **The hands of a leader**
Be a leader who provides direction and support.
- **The feet of a leader**
Be a leader who walks the talk.
- **The spine of a leader**
Be a leader who is courageous in tough times.
- **The eyes of a leader**
Be a leader who has a vision for the future.

To register, email Amanda Franco at afranco@sia-jpa.org.





Use WeTip

For more information, contact
Teresa Franco at
tfranco@sia-jpa.org or
916-364-1281, ext. 1256.

WeTip
WWW.WETIP.COM
1-800-78-CRIME



StopIT!

For additional information
on starting this program in your schools,
contact Rick Jenkins
at rjenkins@sia-jpa.org.

Field trips are fun – and require advance planning

Each school year teachers plan field trips that enhance their students' educational experiences. Although these excursions can be a lot of fun, there's considerable advance planning required for each outing. Prior to organizing trips, be sure to checklist the following:

- **Use the most current field trip forms.**
- **Keep all completed field trip forms a minimum of one year from when the school year ends.**
- **Check with your risk management department or business office to ensure that all district field trip requirements and approvals are met.**
- **Consult with your district's transportation department staff.** Although they may not provide the buses for the excursions, they'll need to know the transportation plans.
- **Some venues might require certificates of insurance as stated in the use agreements approved and signed by the district.** To request a certificate, contact the district office for the needed form.



Field trips are privileges. All necessary steps need to be completed before children can participate.

QUOTE TO NOTE

*"Leadership and learning
are indispensable to
each other."
– John Fitzgerald Kennedy*

*The material in this newsletter should be part of your
Injury and Illness Prevention Plan (IIPP).
Keep a copy of this newsletter in your IIPP binder.*



www.sia-jpa.org

©2018
printed on
recycled paper

RISK REVIEW is published by the Schools Insurance Authority, P.O. Box 276710, Sacramento, CA 95827-6710, (916) 364-1281, 1-877-SIA-KIDS. The SIA is a joint powers authority, composed of 37 members, that collectively provides workers' compensation, liability, property, and health benefit insurance coverage on behalf of its member districts. The SIA school districts are: Arcohe, Atwater, Buckeye, Camino, Center, Central Sierra ROP, El Dorado Co. Off. Ed., El Dorado High, Elk Grove, Elverta, Folsom-Cordova, Galt Elem., Galt High, Gold Oak, Gold Trail, Hayward, Indian Diggings, Kings Canyon, Latrobe, Merced City, Mother Lode, Natomas, North Bay SIA, Pioneer, Placerville, Pollock Pines, Rescue, River Delta, Robla, Sac. City, Sac. Co. Off. Ed., San Juan, Shasta-Trinity SIG, Silver Fork, Twin Rivers, Visions in Education Charter, and Woodland. SIA Officers: Executive Director — Martin Brady; President — Robbie Montalbano, El Dorado County Office of Education; Vice President — Bill McGuire, Twin Rivers USD; Secretary — Keyshun Marshall, Sacramento City USD; Prevention Services Director/Communications — Lisa Tremewan-Konarski; Newsletter: CG Communications