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8431 PREPAREDNESS FOR TOXIC HAZARD

The Board of Education is concerned for the safety of the pupils and staff members assigned to district schools and will take reasonable steps to protect pupils and staff members from hazards that may result from industrial accidents beyond the control of school officials.

The Board will appoint the Business Administrator to serve as liaison with a Toxic Hazard Preparedness (THP) Consultant. The THP Consultant will, in accordance with procedures prepared by the Superintendent, identify potential sources of toxic hazard and develop a plan that includes preventive and remedial measures to be followed in the event pupils and staff members are exposed to a toxic hazard. The plan will also include a system for the periodic evaluation of school environments.

The THP Consultant will enlist the aid of county and municipal authorities and, if possible, the owners or operators of identified potential sources of toxic hazard. The Board may, in its discretion, appoint and charge an ad hoc committee of community representatives to assist the THP Consultant.

The plan for toxic hazard preparedness developed by the THP Consultant and approved by this Board will be disseminated to the public. Teaching staff members will be instructed in the specific measures to be taken when toxic hazard is present and in the recognition of toxic hazards in the environment. A teaching staff member who detects a toxic hazard in school shall immediately notify the school principal and the school nurse or, in the absence of either, the person authorized to perform that office.

Nothing in this policy should be construed in any way as an assumption of liability by the Board of Education for any death, injury, or illness that is the consequence of an accident or equipment failure or negligent or deliberate act beyond the control of the Board or its officers and employees.

N.J.S.A. 13:1K-19 et seq.
N.J.S.A. 34:5A-1 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.4
N.J.A.C. 7:1G-2.1
N.J.A.C. 8:59-1.4

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Reviewed: January 15, 2019

R 8431 TOXIC HAZARD PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

The following procedures are established to guide the Toxic Catastrophe Preparedness consultant in the implementation of Policy No. 8431.

1. The Toxic Hazard Preparedness (THP) Consultant should obtain municipal tax maps of the area within the survey zone and mark on the maps the location of each facility that is potentially dangerous: chemical plants, waste treatment plants, industrial plants, dumps, storage yards, hazardous waste disposal sites, and so forth.
2. The THP Consultant should contact county health departments and the fire and police departments in municipalities within the survey zone to determine which, if any, have completed a plan for emergency response to industrial accidents.
3. The THP Consultant should contact the county health department and local fire and police departments and solicit their cooperation in determining the facilities that may pose a danger to one or more district schools.
4. The THP Consultant may obtain information regarding compliance with the Worker and Community Right to Know Act by calling 609-984-3219. Information regarding compliance with the Toxic Catastrophe Prevention Act may be obtained by calling the project office at 609-984-3641. A copy of a facility's environmental survey may be requested by written request to:

New Jersey Department of
Environmental Protection
401 East State Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08625
5. The THP Consultant should visit each of the facilities identified and enlist the aid of the plant manager. Without suggesting that the plant is mismanaged or a threat to the community, the THP Consultant should seek the plant manager's cooperation in:
 - a. Notifying immediately the district central office and, if appropriate, the Principal of one or more schools in the event of an accident that might adversely affect pupils and staff members;

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- b. Suggesting appropriate measures to be taken in response to an accident;
 - c. Suggesting appropriate emergency equipment and supplies that should be kept on hand in the school nurse's office for use in the event of an industrial accident; and
 - d. Training the district nursing staff in coping with the consequences of exposure to a hazardous substance.
6. The THP Consultant shall request local fire and police officers to notify school officials immediately in the event of an industrial accident known to them which might adversely affect pupils and school staff members. The THP Consultant shall also request the aid of fire and police officers as circumstances dictate.
7. The THP Consultant will assist the Business Administrator in planning and implementing an in-service program to train school district employees in recognizing a toxic condition and responding properly to the hazard.

In Effect: December 2, 2003