

INJURY & ILLNESS PREVENTION PROGRAM
FOR
BIG VALLEY JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



ANNUAL REVIEW SCHEDULE:

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INTRODUCTION

In order to maintain a safe and healthful work environment the Big Valley Jt. Unified School District has developed this Injury & Illness Prevention Program for all employees to follow. This document describes the goals, statutory authority, and the responsibilities of all employees under the Program. It addresses Compliance, Hazard Identification, Accident Investigation, Hazard Mitigation, Training, Hazard Communication, and Program Documentation. By making employee safety a high priority for every employee we can reduce injuries and illnesses, increase productivity, and promote a safer and healthier environment for all individuals at Big Valley Jt. Unified School District.

GOALS

Diligent implementation of this program will reap many benefits for Big Valley Jt. Unified School District. Most notably it will:

1. Protect the health and safety of employees. Decrease the potential risk of disease, illness, injury, and harmful exposures to district personnel.
2. Reduce workers' compensation claims and costs.
3. Improve efficiency by reducing the time spent replacing or reassigning injured employees, as well as reduce the need to find and train replacement employees.
4. Improve employee morale and efficiency as employees see that their safety is important to management.
5. Minimize the potential for penalties assessed by various enforcement agencies by maintaining compliance with Health and Safety Codes.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

- ◆ California Labor Code Section 6401.7.
- ◆ California Code of Regulations Title 8, Sections 1509 and 3203.

RESPONSIBILITY

The ultimate responsibility for establishing and maintaining effective environmental health and safety policies specific to district facilities and operations rests with Superintendent. General policies, which govern the activities and responsibilities of the Injury & Illness Prevention Program, are established under (his or her) final authority.

It is the responsibility of Site Administrators Supervisors and Managers to develop procedures, which ensure effective compliance with the Injury & Illness Prevention Program, as well as other health and safety policies related to operations under their control.

Site Administrators, Supervisors and Managers, are responsible for enforcement of this Program among the employees under their direction by carrying out the various duties outlined herein, setting acceptable safety policies and procedures for each employee to follow and ensuring that employees receive the general safety training. Each Site Administrator, Supervisor, and Manager must also ensure that appropriate job specific safety training is received, and that safety responsibilities are clearly outlined in the job descriptions, which govern the employees under their direction. Supervising others also carries the responsibility for knowing how to safely accomplish the tasks assigned each employee, for purchasing appropriate personal protective equipment, and for evaluating employee compliance.

Immediate responsibility for workplace health and safety rests with each individual employee. Employees are responsible for following the established work procedures and safety guidelines in their area, as well as those identified in this Program. Employees are also responsible for using the personal protective equipment issued to protect them from identified hazards, and for reporting any unsafe conditions to their supervisors.

The Superintendent is responsible for developing and managing this Injury & Illness Prevention Program. The IIPP will be reviewed annually to ensure up-to-date accuracy and compliance with required IIPP guidelines.

COMPLIANCE

Compliance with this Injury & Illness Prevention Program will be achieved in the following manner:

1. Site Administrators, Supervisors, and Managers will set positive examples for working safely and require that all staff under their direction work safely.
2. Site Administrators, Supervisors, and Managers will use all disciplinary procedures available to them to ensure that employees follow established safety policies and procedures. Performance evaluations, verbal counseling, written warnings, and other forms of disciplinary action are available.
3. Site Administrators, Supervisors, and Managers will identify the resources necessary to provide a safe work environment for their employees and include them in budget requests.
4. Site Administrators, Supervisors, and Managers will establish appropriate means of recognition for employees who demonstrate safe work practices.

Big Valley Jt. Unified School District has developed this comprehensive Injury & Illness Prevention Program to enhance the health and safety of its employees.

HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

A health and safety inspection program is essential in order to reduce unsafe conditions, which may expose employees to incidents that could result in personal injuries or property damage. It is the responsibility of the district superintendent to ensure that appropriate, systematic safety inspections are conducted periodically.

Scheduled Safety Inspections

Upon initial implementation of this program, inspections of all work areas will be conducted. The inspections will be recorded on the district's facility safety inspection form and maintained in each site's inspection file. Documentation for abatement of any hazards detected will be attached to the inspection report when completed.

Thereafter, safety inspections will be conducted at the frequency described below:

1. Annual inspections of all sites will be conducted by the maintenance staff and the superintendent using the forms in Appendices C, D, and E to detect and eliminate any hazardous conditions that may exist.
2. Semi-annual inspections of all potentially hazardous areas (shops, cafeterias, storage areas, gymnasiums, sheds, etc.) will be conducted by the maintenance staff or the superintendent using the form in Appendix F to detect and eliminate any hazardous conditions that may exist.
3. Monthly inspections of all classrooms, laboratories, and shops will be conducted by the staff responsible for the space using the form in Appendix F to detect and eliminate any hazardous conditions that may exist.

Unscheduled Safety Inspections

1. Additional safety inspections will be conducted whenever new equipment or changes in procedures are introduced into the workplace that presents new hazards.
2. Superintendent or Site Administrator(s) may conduct periodic unscheduled safety inspections of all potentially hazardous areas to assist in the maintenance of a safe and healthful workplace.
3. Safety reviews will be conducted when occupational accidents occur to identify and correct hazards that may have contributed to the accident.

ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS

Superintendents, Site Administrators, and Supervisors will investigate all accidents, injuries, occupational illnesses, and near-miss incidents using the forms in Appendices A and B to identify the root cause. Appropriate repairs or procedural changes will be implemented promptly to correct the hazards implicated in these events.

To ensure timely accounting for Workers' Compensation procedures, both employee and supervisor must complete their respective portions on the Report of Employee Injury/Exposure Form and District Accident Investigation Form available at the District Office or school site.

HAZARD CORRECTION

All hazards identified will be promptly investigated and alternate procedures implemented as indicated. The District recognizes that hazards range from imminent dangers to hazards of relatively low risk. Corrective actions or plans, including suitable timetables for completion, are the responsibility of the Site Administrator or Superintendent.

TRAINING

Effective dissemination of safety information lies at the very heart of a successful Injury & Illness Prevention Program. All employees must be trained in general safe work practices. In addition, specific instruction with respect to hazards unique to each employee's job assignment will be provided.

General Safe Work Practices

At a minimum, all employees will be trained in the following:

1. Fire Safety, Evacuation, and Emergency Procedures
2. Hazard Communication (Use of Material Safety Data Sheets)
3. Blood Borne Pathogens
4. Injury & Illness Prevention Program

Specific Safe Work Practices

In addition to this general training, each employee will be instructed how to protect themselves from the hazards specific to their individual job duties. At a minimum this entails how to use workplace equipment, safe handling of hazardous materials and use of personal protective equipment. Training must be completed before beginning to work on assigned equipment, and whenever new hazards or changes in procedures are implemented.

The Superintendent is responsible for providing Site Administrators, Supervisors, and Managers with the training necessary to familiarize themselves with the safety and health hazards their employees are exposed to.

It is the responsibility of each Site Administrator, Supervisor, and Manager to know the hazards related to his/her employee's job tasks, and ensure they receive appropriate training.

1. Supervisors will ensure that all employees receive general and job-specific training prior to initial or new job assignments.
2. Supervisors will ensure that employees are trained whenever new substances, processes, procedures or equipment are introduced to the workplace which may create new hazards.

Training must also be given when new or previously unrecognized hazards are brought to a supervisor's attention.

3. All training will be documented and kept in employee files. The attached Employee Training Checklist Form (or equivalent) will be used for this purpose.

COMMUNICATION

Effective two-way communication, which involves employee input on matters of workplace safety, is essential to maintaining an effective Injury & Illness Prevention Program. To foster better safety communication the following guidelines will be implemented:

The sites will use an Employee Bulletin Board for posting information on safety in a location accessible to all employees. Changes in protocol, safety bulletins, accident statistics, training announcements, and other safety information will be posted, as they become available.

Site Administrators, Managers, and Supervisors will provide time at periodic staff meetings to discuss safety topics. Status reports will be given on safety inspections, hazard correction projects, and accident investigation results, as well as feedback to previous employee suggestions. Employees will be encouraged to participate and give suggestions without fear of reprisal. The attached attendance sheet should be used to document attendance and topics covered. Additional communication methods to be used are:

_____ Posters _____ Meetings _____ Manuals
_____ Newsletters _____ Bulletins _____ Warning Labels

Employees are encouraged to bring to the District's attention any potential health or safety hazard that may exist in the work area. The district's Maintenance Request form or the district's Facility Inspection form should be used for this purpose. These forms are available in the District Office and at each school site.

Supervisors will follow up all suggestions and investigate the concerns brought up through these communication methods. Feedback to the employees is critical, and must be provided for effective two-way communication.

Compliance will be reinforced by:

Appropriate comments on performance evaluations.

Non-compliance will be addressed by:

- An immediate discussion between the supervisor and the employee who is discovered working in an unsafe manner.
- Appropriate disciplinary action up to dismissal.

The District will pursue readily understandable health and safety communications for all affected employees.

DOCUMENTATION

Many standards and regulations of Cal/OSHA contain requirements for the maintenance and retention of records for occupational injuries and illnesses, medical surveillance, exposure monitoring, inspections and other activities relevant to occupational health and safety. To comply with these regulations, as well as to demonstrate that the critical elements of this Injury & Illness Prevention Program are being implemented, the following records will be kept on file in the District Office or school site for at least the length of time indicated below:

1. Copies of all IIPP Safety Inspection Forms. Retain 5 years.
2. Copies of all Accident Investigation Forms. Retain 5 years.
3. Copies of all Employee Training Checklists and related Training Documents. Retain for duration of each individual's employment.
4. Copies of all Safety Meeting Agendas. Retain 5 years.

The District will ensure that these records are kept in their files, and present them to Cal/OSHA or other regulatory agency representatives if requested. A review of these records will be conducted by the Superintendent during routine inspections to measure compliance with the Program.

A safe and healthy workplace must be the goal of everyone at Big Valley Jt. Unified School District, with responsibility shared by management and staff alike. If you have any questions regarding this Injury & Illness Prevention Program, please contact the Main Office at (530) 294-5266.