

FOCUS N SAFETY

Summer 2005

Issue 3, 05/06

Safer Playground Equipment—Replacing the Old

More than half of the schools in the District have replaced their old playground equipment with newer, safer and FUN equipment. OEHS reviews and provides the approval for each playground structure before it is installed at a school.



Above: An Example of the Old Equipment.

Below: A model of the new equipment being installed at schools with poured-in-place matting.



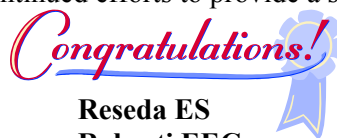
Special Announcements:

> Safe School Plan Volume 2—Emergency Procedures. Revisions to be web-based starting in August 2005!

> When the temperature reaches 90° F there is an increased danger of heat cramps, heat exhaustion, or heat stroke. To help prevent this drink plenty of water, wear hats, sunglasses, and loose cotton clothing to help stay cool. Take frequent breaks in a cool place.

Routine Safe School Inspections—Compliance Ratings

Since 2003, the Office of Environmental Health and Safety has been giving schools overall compliance ratings (OCR) of “Good”, “Fair” or “Poor” based on the results of their Routine Safe School Inspection. In 2003 39% of LAUSD schools were poor, 59% were fair and 3% were good. This year 8% of LAUSD schools are poor, 72% are fair and 20% are good. The following schools deserve special recognition for their efforts in bringing their OCR from “Poor” in 2003 to “Good” in 2005. Thank you for your continued efforts to provide a safe learning environment for our students.



Arlington Heights ES
Bassett Street ES
Cantara Street ES
Chandler ES
Chase Street ES
Cohasset Street ES
Coldwater Canyon ES
Danube Avenue ES
Del Rey HS
Dixie Canyon ES
Dominguez ES
El Camino Real HS
Emerson MS
Fullbright Avenue ES
Fulton MS
Germain Street ES
Hancock Park ES

Harbor OC
Henry MS
Independence HS
Laurel EEC
Lemay Street ES
Liggett Street ES
LACES
Lull Special Ed. Center
Madison MS
Marlton ES
Miller HS
Millikan MS
Monlux ES
Mulholland MS
Park Western Place ES
Portola MS
Queen Anne Place ES

Reseda ES
Roberti EEC
Saturn Street ES
Sherman Oaks ES
Stagg Street ES
Toland Way ES
Tulsa Street ES
Valerio Primary Center
Valerio Street ES
Virginia Road ES
Warner Avenue ES
West Hollywood Op. C.
Wilmington Park EEC
Wilmington Skills Center
Woodland Hills ES

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Identifying and Preventing West Nile Virus

Upcoming Training:

The County Department of Health Services reports that the West Nile Virus is spread to humans most commonly through the bite of a mosquito which has been infected with the virus. Most mosquitoes do not carry the virus and the risk of serious human illness is extremely low, with more than 80% of those exposed to the virus experiencing no symptoms at all.



Those who develop symptoms may experience headaches, fever, body aches, skin rash, or swollen lymph glands within 3-14 days after a bite from an infected mosquito and generally those symptoms last a few days. With the rare exception of transmission via blood donation or organ transplantation, individuals infected with WNV are not contagious to others.

It is imperative that every effort is made to eliminate or avoid conditions conducive to mosquito breeding on school sites.

These conditions include standing pools of water on athletic fields, tree wells or elsewhere on the grounds, and small amounts of water in birdbaths, old tires, jars, cans, roof drains, air conditioning pans, etc. Mosquitoes will breed in as little as 1/2 inch of non-flowing water. Please see REF-1304 for the specific responsibilities and actions of school and central office personnel in reducing the risk of exposure to WNV among students and staff, or visit the OEHS website and see our Safety Alert No. 04-07.

16-Hr Asbestos Awareness Training (1st Day Lecture at OEHS / 2nd Day Mandatory Hands-on Training at Central Shops—ATU Shed)
August 2005 TBA
October 2005 TBA

To sign up, call
213-745-1148

First Aid and CPR Classes being offered in the Fall. Sign up now !

For information, call
213-241-3949

Workers' Compensation Fraud—10 Signs to Look For

About Us:

Fraudulent workers' compensation claims in California steal millions of dollars from LAUSD, deserving employees, and their families. Experts estimate fraud accounts for at least 5-15% of all claims.

Supervisors investigating accidents should be on the alert for suspicious injury claims. There are 10 signs that a claim may be fraud. The presence of one should raise questions, but two or more should raise a red flag. Fraud can be stopped, but your help is needed.

Report suspicious claims to the Fraud Unit by calling 626-397-9272.

10 signs that a claim may be fraudulent:

1. No witnesses to the accident and employee's description doesn't logically support the cause of the injury.
2. Date, time, and place the accident occurred are vague or unknown, or refusal to cooperate with the investigation.
3. Reporting an accident that happened weeks or months ago.
4. A history of filing multiple claims, suspicious or litigated claims.
5. Accident occurred in a place where the employee should not be.
6. A disgruntled, soon to retire, seasonal or temporary worker.
7. Accident reported during or after disciplinary action.
8. Accident reported on Monday shortly after work starts, or occurring late Friday but not reported until Monday.
9. A history of poor attendance or work performance; excessive time off - especially prior to an injury.
10. A history of reporting subjective injuries such as pain, headaches, nausea, inability to sleep, or stress.



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