

Safety Corner

Mandatory Safety Training.

Any statement with the word “mandatory” in it instantly does two things: gets your attention and initiates feelings of irritation. We all have so much to do this time of year in anticipation of the new and returning students in our classrooms and hallways. It seems there are a million things more important than some old safety class that we sit through every year. On the other hand, as Harry S. Truman said: “It's what you learn after you know it all that counts”.

This year you will undoubtedly partake in safety training you are familiar with. I challenge you to engage and learn, question and participate. Learn something new. There are a handful of mandatory safety topics required each year including Blood Borne Pathogens, Asbestos Awareness, Hazard Communication (right to understand), and fire safety. These trainings are mandatory annually because the knowledge is perishable and because there is a very real potential for injury, especially for new employees. Not getting hurt means the training did the job... last year. Let's refresh:

Blood Borne Pathogens: All staff who are reasonably anticipated to have contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials must be trained annually. The training can be an onsite or online class, discussion, and/or literature handouts to district employees.

Asbestos Awareness: Any M&O or custodial staff who work in a building with asbestos containing materials need asbestos awareness training annually. This is achieved through a 2 hour AHERA awareness training.

Hazard Communication: Every year all staff who have work exposures – even office workers that come into contact with chemicals in passing- must review procedures, Safety Data Sheet (SDS) access, and emergency response. This is typically done through an onsite class and can also be done online.

Fire Safety: All staff need annual training on the use and hazards associated with fire extinguishers. This class is best conducted on-site and there are several organizations that will do a demonstration and application class at your site.

Of course there are many more training topics that districts need training on to maintain a safe and secure school or worksite; different sites will have different priorities. For any training questions including requests for onsite classes, please contact Kurt Walling, the Loss Prevention Manager for STSIG at kwalling@stsig.org, or 530-221-6444.

And remember: Stay Alert, Stay Alive!