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Hermon School Department

Chemical Hazards

The Hermon School Department is committed to providing a safe environment for students and employees. It is the policy of the Hermon School Department to follow safe practices in regard to the storage and handling of hazardous chemicals in its schools. The School Department will comply with all applicable Maine and federal laws and Regulations concerning hazardous chemicals.

The superintendent has responsibility for the safe handling and storage of hazardous chemicals in schools, the development of required written plans, the designation of a Chemical Hygiene Officer, and ensuring that staff is trained with respect to chemical hazards found in the workplace. Written plans shall include information regarding proper purchasing, labeling, storage, training, handling and disposal of hazardous chemicals.

HAZCOM (HAZARD COMMUNICATION STANDARDS)

The School Department will comply with OSHA's Hazard Communication standard 29 CFR 1910.1200, as adopted and enforced by the Maine Department of Labor, which requires a written hazard communication (HazCom) plan, including a listing of chemicals being used in the schools; training of employees who handle these chemicals; and, for all employees, where safety data sheets (SDS) are located and how to read them. This standard applies to hazard communications for hazardous chemicals such as those used in cleaning and disinfection, which may be found in custodial and food service areas, among other locations.

LABORATORY SCIENCE CHEMICALS

The School Department will comply with OSHA standard CFR 1910.1450 as adopted and enforced by the Maine Department of Labor, which addresses science laboratory chemicals. This standard applies to secondary laboratory chemicals commonly found in chemistry and biology laboratories in schools.

The superintendent/designee will appoint an employee of the School Department as Chemical Hygiene Officer (lead chemistry teacher at Hermon High School) for the School Department. The Chemical Hygiene Officer will be responsible for developing and implementing a Chemical Hygiene Plan, to be reviewed annually, that includes procedures relevant to the identification, purchase, storage, inventory, handling and disposal of hazardous chemicals used in science laboratories; maintenance of safety data sheets (SDS) for laboratory chemicals; and ensuring that employees with science/laboratory responsibilities are provided appropriate training on the specific hazards associated with the chemicals being used in school laboratories and how to read the SDS for these chemicals.

The person appointed Chemical Hygiene Officer must be an employee of the School Department, preferably a science teacher or other staff member who is knowledgeable about the chemicals being used in school laboratories and stored in the schools.

Legal Reference: 29 C.F.R. § 1910.1200, 1910.1450
26 M.R.S.A. § 565
Me. Dept. of Prof. Regulation Rule Ch. 2 § 179
Me. Dept. of Ed. Rule Ch. 161
Commissioner's Administrative Letter No. 33, June 9, 2005 (Chemicals in Schools)

Cross Reference: EBCA – Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

