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Oak Grove School District Employee Safety Newsletter

PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF

Working Together To Protect Our Community From Wildfires

PG&E expanded their **Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS)** program in 2019 wildfire season to include all electric lines that pass through high fire-threat areas—both distribution and transmission. PG&E will only proactively turn off lines in the interest of safety to help reduce the likelihood of an ignition when extreme fire danger conditions are forecasted. While customers in high fire-threat areas are more likely to be affected, any of PG&E's more than 5 million electric customers could have their power shut off if their community relies upon a line that passes through a high fire-threat area.

Public Safety Power Shutoff Criteria

PG&E's Wildfire Safety Operations Center (WSOC) monitors fire danger conditions across the service area and evaluates whether to turn off electric power lines in the interest of safety.

While no single factor will drive a Public Safety Power Shutoff, some factors include:

- **A Red Flag Warning**—declared by the National Weather Service
- **Low Humidity Levels**—generally 20% and below
- **Forecasted Sustained Winds Generally Above 25 MPH and Wind Gusts in Excess of Approximately 45 MPH**, depending on location and site-specific conditions such as temperature, terrain and local climate.
- **Condition of Dry Fuel**—on the ground and live vegetation (moisture content)
- **On-The-Ground, Real Time Observations** from PG&E's WSOC and field observations from PG&E crews.

There are steps to take to prepare homes, families and businesses for a PSPS:

- **Update contact info** by visiting pge.com/mywildfirealerts today to make sure your information is updated.
- **Identify backup charging methods** for phones and keep hard copies of emergency numbers.
- **Plan for any medical needs** like medications that need to be refrigerated or devices that require power.
- **Build or restock your emergency kit** with flashlights, fresh batteries, first aid supplies and cash.

For more information on PSPS you can contact PG&E:

Phone: 1-866-743-6589

Email: wilfiresafety@pge.com

DISINFECTING WIPES

Disinfecting wipes are pesticides and must be used according to label directions.

Disinfecting wipes are antimicrobial products that are used to kill germs. Many teachers and other school staff use disinfecting wipes daily for health and safety purposes. Disinfecting wipes are registered pesticides and like all pesticides, must be used according to the label directions, including keeping them out of the reach of children.

Microfiber cloths are a reusable, less expensive alternative to disinfecting wipes that do an effective excellent job at cleaning dirt, grime, and germs from nonporous surfaces with nothing more than rinsing and wringing the cloth out with water before and after use.

All school staff who use disinfecting wipes are required to participate in training to learn about the safe use of pesticides around children. All certificates showing training date must be posted in the classroom, custodial closet or office.

Questions about the use of disinfectants, contact Fred Dickey or James Moreno, M&O Managers, for more information.

SAFETY DATA SHEETS (SDS)

PREVENTING CUTS AND LACERATIONS

SAFETY DATA SHEETS PROGRAM

The Federal OSHA standard, 29 CFR 1910.1200 requires that employers provide access to current material safety data sheets (SDS) for all hazardous materials used by employees and/or customers. Oak Grove School District has researched an efficient procedure and has contracted with the 3E Company to assist us to provide a safe environment for all staff and students.

SDS contain valuable safety information. They can also help to reduce risk and potential liability related to chemical use and exposure. SDS should be requested in medical emergencies, chemical spills and employee training situations.

The SDS on Demand program provides us with access to more than 1.25 million updated product-specific SDS. This service is very easy to use: simply call 3E's toll-free 800 number 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to request SDS. The SDS will be faxed or mailed to the register within a specific time frame, according to the urgency of the request.

Material are provided for your reference at your site.

HOW TO REQUEST SDS:

To request a safety data sheet (SDS), simply call, fax, or mail your request to 3E Company. To ensure your request is quickly processed, it is extremely important to provide as much of the following product information as possible:

- ◆ Product Name
- ◆ Manufacturer name
- ◆ Product Number (found on side of container)
- ◆ UPC code (if available)

Please be as specific as possible when requesting an SDS for a product (e.g. Sherwin Williams, clear acrylic paint, #1303). Separate SDS are maintained for products that have even very minor differences from others (e.g. colors, aerosol vs. pourable, concentrated vs. ready-to-use).

Please do not have unmarked bottles containing hazardous chemicals!

HOW TO RECEIVE THE REQUESTED SDS:

Upon completion of your SDS request, 3E can fax or mail directly to your site or to whomever you have specified on your request (e.g. hospital, clinic).

The 3E program provides the following to assist with compliance:

- ◆ 24 hour Safety Data Sheet Program
- ◆ 24-hour spill and information hotline
- ◆ 24-hour exposure/poison control hotline.

It is imperative that employees DO NOT bring their own supplies from home. All chemicals used at Oak Grove School District must be approved and on the SDS list.

Cuts and lacerations are common workplace injuries. In fact, about 30% of all workplace injuries involve cuts or lacerations, and approximately 70% of those are to the hands or fingers, according to the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation.

These injuries can range from minor abrasions that require first aid to serious or life-threatening puncture wounds, deep lacerations or amputation injuries.

How workers get hurt

A cut or laceration can occur a number of ways on the job. A worker may use the wrong tool for the job or a tool that's in poor condition. Or, he or she might be working on a machine that has missing or improperly adjusted guards. Poor lighting, clutter and debris also can play a part, as can lack of training, working too fast, failure to wear proper personal protective equipment and not following safety procedures.

Keep them safe

Employers need to establish work procedures to identify and control worker exposure to cut and laceration hazards, Ohio BWC states. Tips from the bureau include:

- Use the right tool for the job. Inspect it thoroughly before starting work.
- Make sure the tool is secure at all times while cutting, and never hold the item being cut in your hand. Keep the non-cutting hand clear of the path of the cut.
- Ensure blades are sharp – dull blades require more force to use, thus increasing the risk of incidents.
- Wear necessary PPE, including eyewear, gloves and long-sleeved shirts.
- Never use a cutting blade as a screwdriver, pry bar or chisel.
- Don't leave exposed blades unattended, and keep tools with blades in a closed position when not in use.
- Use a separate drawer for sharp tools.