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SAFETY ALERT

No. 14-05

CHINESE CHALK

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Recently, there have been several incidents of unauthorized pesticide use at schools and offices, involving the use of “Chinese Chalk”. The District’s Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policy prohibits non-approved pesticides from being used. Only District Pest Control Technicians are allowed to apply pesticides on District sites.

Chinese Chalk, also known as “Miraculous Chalk,” is not a District approved product nor approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). It is an illegal product in the United States that may be sold in neighborhood stores, on the street or via the internet. It is imported from China illegally and the product has been found to be a health hazard particularly to children and pets.

The EPA has expressed special concern over this pesticide because children can mistake the product for regular blackboard or sidewalk chalk.

Some of the symptoms of exposure include:

- Vomiting
- Convulsions
- Tremors
- Loss of consciousness
- Stomach pains



If a student has been exposed to Chinese Chalk and exhibits these symptoms, seek medical attention immediately and notify Poison Control at 1-800-222-1222.

For more information on Chinese Chalk or the District’s IPM policies, please refer to the following websites:

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/illegalproducts/chalk.htm>

<http://www.laschools.org/new-site/operations-services/ipm/>

If you find Chinese Chalk at a District site, contact OEHS for guidance and to schedule a hazardous materials pick up at 213-241-3199 or at <http://achieve.lausd.net/oehs>.

DISTRIBUTION: OEHS Website