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SAFETY ALERT

No. 05-10

MODIFICATIONS TO BUILDING MATERIALS
CONTAINING ASBESTOS OR LEAD

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Flooring, walls, and ceiling materials often contain small amounts of asbestos that can be released into the air upon drilling, cutting into, or causing damage to the surface of these materials. Additionally, painted surfaces and ceramic tiles may contain lead that can be released when disturbed. In order to prevent such incidents, Federal and State regulations require the District to comply with specific control procedures whenever work is performed on building materials that may contain asbestos or lead.

School staff, students, and parents should be periodically reminded of the following rules intended to prevent the release of asbestos or lead in District facilities.

1. School staff, students, and parents are prohibited from making any repairs or modifications to school buildings, including cutting, drilling into, sanding or removing any building components. Such components include, but are not limited to walls, ceilings, floors and cabinets.
2. Repairs or modifications to building components may only be performed by properly trained District maintenance personnel or approved contractors. Any requests for modifications to building components must be submitted in writing to the Site Administrator.
3. Any damaged building components or surfaces (e.g., holes in walls, peeling paint) should be reported to the Plant Manager or Site Administrator as soon as possible.
4. Care should be exercised when securing objects to wall surfaces, so as to avoid damage to the wall. Thumbtacks or small nails may be used as long as they do not gouge or mar the surface of the wall.
5. Staff and students are not permitted to dismantle or attempt repairs on any type of District-issued equipment, such as film projectors, lighting devices, or electrical equipment, unless this activity is part of a District authorized curriculum. Equipment in need of repair should be reported to the Plant Manager.

Questions on these requirements, or other information related to the management of asbestos or lead in schools may be referred to the Asbestos Technical Unit at 213-745-1450, or OEHS at 213-241-3199.

DISTRIBUTION: All Schools and Local District Offices