About LAUSD’s Office of Environmental Health and Safety

The Office of Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS) administers a wide range of environmental, health, and safety programs including: indoor and environmental air quality, assessment of new school sites, emergency management/response, workplace injury reduction, training for safe work practices, Safe School Inspections, construction inspections, waste recycling, hazardous waste pick-up, traffic and pedestrian safety, industrial facilities near schools, environmental compliance, medical surveillance of employees, compliance during asbestos and lead abatement, and testing for lead in drinking water. There are two distinct programs as described in the following page: Safety and Industrial Hygiene and Environmental Programs.
Safety and Industrial Hygiene
OEHS provides support to schools and offices to assure safety and health issues are appropriately addressed in a professional manner. This support ensures students and staff are afforded a safe learning and working environment while complying with regulatory requirements. OEHS staff conducts Routine Safe School Inspections to evaluate the extent to which school conditions and operating practices are in compliance with regulatory standards and District policies. A Corrective Action Notice is provided to each school indicating actions necessary to achieve compliance. These efforts ensure that conditions that could potentially endanger students and staff are appropriately mitigated. OEHS manages the Lead in Drinking Water program to ensure all potable water sources meet safe levels established by the EPA. This includes establishing the District’s policies and procedures, monitoring site compliance during periodic inspections and measuring compliance rates. Regular compliance reports are issued to executive staff based on the on-line Administrator Certification System.

Environmental Programs
OEHS has completed a pilot study to assess the potential exposure to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in indoor air at District schools in support of the Facilities Services Division’s (FSD) Lighting Upgrade Program. OEHS has also developed interim guidelines and procedures to address PCBs in building materials. OEHS’ work on PCBs has garnered attention from the U.S. EPA who are collaborating with the District to develop guidelines nationwide. OEHS leads the nation by completing a comprehensive classroom radiofrequency investigation to ensure that the use of WiFi in the classroom is safe for students and staff. The study was done in support of the District’s $500 million Common Core Technology Program (CCTP). OEHS collaborates with the state Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), to complete environmental investigations, and to develop and manage required site remedial action plans. OEHS staff also provides oversight and support for development and maintenance of site environmental surveillance systems (i.e. methane systems), hazardous/universal waste management, solid waste management, recycling programs, storm water compliance, and environmental auditing.

Office of Environmental Health & Safety Facts
✦ Responds to 1000 emergency calls related to gas leaks, sewage, hazardous spills, water intrusion, fires, air quality, etc. annually.
✦ Conducts 300 investigations related to regulatory agency inquires, indoor air quality, mold, general safety, etc. annually.
✦ Trains 1600 M&O employees annually on regulatory requirements such as Permit by Rule, Asbestos Awareness, Injury and Illness Prevention etc.
✦ Trains 700 Plant Managers on Hazardous Waste Storage & Handling and other safety topics annually.
✦ The OEHS Director serves as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) officer and ensures compliance with required CEQA provisions for new school sites and modernization projects.
✦ Completed 166 Chemical Evaluations to ensure the safety of products used at the schools in Fiscal Year 2014-15.
✦ Performed 1792 construction inspections for PEX and ITD LAN modernizations in Fiscal Year 2014-15.
✦ Presented at 171 Job Start meetings to ensure contractor compliance with District safety standards in Fiscal Year 2014-15.

CONTACT OEHS
Check out the Office of Environmental Safety and Health website at http://achieve.lausd.net/oehs to access specific information for District sites (i.e. Safe School Inspection results, Corrective Action Notices, etc.,) copies of applicable OEHS programs, training material or to schedule a consultative visit.

OEHS Duty Call Center: (213) 241-3199 (7:30 am – 4 pm, M-F) | (213) 625-6631 (after hours)

Robert Laughton
Director