

RSU 9 Chemical Hygiene Plan

Purpose

Mt. Blue Regional School District (RSU 9) is committed to managing chemical safety to maintain a safe environment for all employees and students. This Chemical Hygiene Plan sets forth operating procedures and work policies designed to control chemical hazards.

Scope

To protect employees and students from health hazards associated with the use of hazardous chemicals. We will accomplish this through the following:

- identifying hazardous chemicals;
- developing an outline of responsibilities in the district;
- developing safe procedures;
- discussing procedures for procurement, distribution, and storage of chemicals;
- implementing a plan for monitoring safety equipment and storage areas;
- developing a written plan to address accidents involving chemicals;
- establishing a chemical hazard training program; and
- developing a chemical waste disposal program.

This plan will be in the following areas:

- Principal's Office
- Science Rooms
- Central Office
- Mt. Blue Regional School District (RSU #9) Webpage

This plan will be reviewed annually by the Chemical Hygiene Officer and updated as necessary.

Chemicals

A school database for all chemicals will be maintained at each school using the required inventory form from the Maine Department of Education.

Responsibilities

In order to properly manage the chemicals in our school, we will establish a Chemical Hygiene Officer (CHO). The CHO will have authority to make needed decisions regarding this plan in order for it to remain effective and relevant.

The Chemical Hygiene Officer selected for Mt. Blue Regional School District (RSU #9) is Michael Reid.

Chemical Hygiene Officer

Duties will include:

- Being familiar with all aspects of the Chemical Hygiene Plan.
- Being a contact person for distributing information involving chemical safety.
- Being a resource on matters involving the use of chemicals.

- Advising school Principals of any chemicals that pose risks to health or safety.
- Maintaining copies of chemical inventories.
- Coordinate pickup and disposal of unwanted chemicals from the schools annually.

Superintendent

The Superintendent of the school system is responsible for enforcement of all federal, state, and local health, safety and environmental regulations and policies including the Chemical Hygiene Plan.

School Chemical Hygiene Officer

The Chemical Hygiene Officer is selected by the Superintendent or the building Principal. Their responsibilities include:

- Provide SDS Book that starts with a Table of Contents, containing a comprehensive list of all current chemicals in the Science Classrooms/Laboratories.
- Monitoring chemical handling and storage procedures.
- Coordinate with others for disposal of unwanted chemicals.

School System Employees

School system employees are responsible for:

- Participating in training programs provided by the school system and others.
- Maintaining an awareness of health and safety procedures.
- Awareness of location and use of SDS Book and its contents.
- Using and modeling good personal chemical hygiene habits.
- Reporting accidents, injuries, unsafe practices, and unsafe conditions.
- Providing safety training for all students participating in school laboratories.
- Consulting the CHO prior to bringing any chemical on site.

Students

Students should adhere to safety procedures and good chemical hygiene habits. They should report accidents and maintain an awareness of health and safety procedures.

Safe Operating Procedures

A. Safety Practices

- SDS (Safety Data Sheets) will be maintained and readily accessible to all occupants.
- The Chemical Hygiene Officer will ensure that all chemicals have an SDS and proper labeling.
- Appropriate personal protective equipment must be worn to avoid contact with chemicals.
- Chemical splash goggles (NOT impact glasses) must be worn at all times when chemicals, glassware or open flame are used in the laboratory.
- Ensuring that each lab is equipped with appropriate ventilation.

B. Safety Rules

General Laboratory Rules and Procedures

- The school principal will be contacted when any accident occurs.
- Emergency telephone numbers shall be posted in the chemical storage area.
- Discarding chipped, etched or cracked glassware.
- Teach everyone how to use the eyewash station and shower.
- An accident report shall be completed by the end of the workday.
- Fire extinguishers are the appropriate type and accessible.
- Employees and students shall be knowledgeable of primary and secondary evacuation routes.
- Drinking from lab glassware or other lab vessels is prohibited.
- Eating or drinking is not allowed in the laboratory.
- Cosmetics shall not be applied in laboratories.
- All unlabeled chemicals are prohibited.
- Know the hazards and precautions before using any chemical.
- Follow proper disposal procedures of all chemicals.
- Provide emergency eyewash stations and showers in labs where needed. Eyewash stations and showers shall be tested monthly and yearly, respectively.
- All exits, emergency equipment, and master utility controls shall remain clear and unobstructed.
- When hazardous airborne contaminants are generated, fume hoods shall be in use. Fume hoods shall be inspected annually for efficiency (SafetyWorks can do this free of charge).
- No chemicals shall be stored in the fume hood.

Chemical Procurement, Distribution, Storage Guidelines

- The school system will identify all “approved” chemicals allowed to be purchased, stored, and used on school premises.
- Employees shall consult the CHO prior to bringing any chemical on site that is not on the “approved” list.
- All chemicals shall be properly labeled at all times.
- The school system will ensure proper chemical storage by using an appropriate storage system for all storerooms/cabinets.
- All chemicals shall be kept under lock and key. All laboratories shall be locked when not in use.
- Chemicals shall be checked out and used only by trained and authorized employees.
- An inventory of all chemicals shall be conducted annually, and all unwanted chemicals shall be gathered for disposal. Chemical containers shall be inspected during the annual inspection for container integrity and proper labeling.

Record Maintenance

The school system will establish and maintain documentation of:

- Any accidents and incidents involving chemicals.
- Comprehensive inventory of hazardous chemicals.
- Monthly inspections of equipment. Annual inspections of storage areas.
- All chemical disposal operations conducted.

Emergency Plans for Spills and/or Accidents

The school system will provide a spill kit accessible for each laboratory. This kit might include:

- Neutralizing agents for acid spills.
- Neutralizing agents for alkali spills
- Spill absorbing materials such as sand, cat litter, or other spill control materials.
- Quantities of cleanup materials shall be sufficient for the largest anticipated spill.

Each school should have a system for prevention, containment, cleanup, and reporting of chemical spills.

Training Programs

The school system will develop and implement chemical training for all employees that includes:

- Awareness and location of written Chemical Hygiene Plan.
- Elements of OSHA's Hazard Communication Program.
- Appropriate safety measures and safe work practices.
- Training at new employee orientation, new assignments, and annually.

Chemical Waste Disposal

- The school system will develop a chemical waste disposal process.
- The Chemical Hygiene Officer shall be responsible for the chemical waste disposal process.
- The chemical waste disposal process shall include:
 - Collection and containment of waste chemicals.
 - Procedures for safe transport.
 - List of contact personnel.
 - Historical data of all disposed chemicals including:
 - ▶ Date of disposal;
 - ▶ Name and quantity of each disposed chemical;
 - ▶ Method of disposal (including name of disposal company, if used).