

## **CHEMICAL HAZARDS**

CRCS is committed to providing a safe environment for students and employees. It is the policy of CRCS to follow safe practices in regard to the storage and handling of hazardous chemicals in its schools. The school unit will comply with all applicable Maine and federal laws and regulations concerning hazardous chemicals.

The Executive Director will be responsible for the safe handling and storage of hazardous chemicals in schools, the development of required plans, the designation of a Chemical Hygiene Officer, and ensuring that staff are trained with respect to chemical hazards found in the workplace. Written plans shall include information regarding proper purchasing, labeling, storage, training, handling and disposal of hazardous chemicals.

### **HAZCOM (HAZARD COMMUNICATION) STANDARDS**

CRCS will comply with OSHA's Hazard Communication standards 29 CFR 1910.1200, as adopted and enforced by the Maine Department of Labor, which requires a written hazard communication (HazCom) plan, including a listing of chemicals being used in the schools; training of employees that handle these chemicals; and, for all employees, where safety data sheets (SDS) are located, and how to read them. This standard applies to hazard communications for hazardous chemicals such as those used in cleaning and disinfection, which may be found in custodial and food service areas, among other locations.

### **LABORATORY SCIENCE CHEMICALS**

CRCS will comply with OSHA standard 29 CFR 1910.1450, as adopted and enforced by the Maine Department of Labor, which addresses science laboratory chemicals. This standard applies to science laboratory chemicals commonly found in chemistry and biology laboratories in schools.

The Executive Director /designee will appoint a Chemical Hygiene Officer for the school unit. The Chemical Hygiene Officer will be responsible for developing and implementing a Chemical Hygiene Plan, to be reviewed annually, that includes procedures relevant to the identification, purchase, storage, inventory, handling, and disposal of hazardous chemicals used in science laboratories; maintenance of safety data sheets (SDS) for laboratory chemicals; and ensuring that employees with science/laboratory responsibilities are provided appropriate training on the specific hazards associated with the chemicals being used in school laboratories and how to read the SDS for these chemicals.

The person appointed as Chemical Hygiene Officer must be an employee of CRCS, preferably a science teacher or other staff member who is knowledgeable about the chemicals being used in school laboratories and stored in schools.

Legal Reference: 29 C.F.R. § 1910.1200

26 M.R.S.A. § 565

Ch. 2 § 179 (Dept. of Prof. Regulation Rule)

Ch. 161 (Dept. of Educ. Rule)

Commissioner's Administrative Letter No. 33, June 9, 2005 (Chemicals in  
(Schools)

Cross Reference: EBCA – Comprehensive Health & Safety & Emergency Management Plan

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