

EMPLOYEE SAFETY

The Governing Board is committed to maximizing employee safety and believes that workplace safety is every employee's responsibility. Working conditions and equipment shall comply with standards prescribed by federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)

No employee shall be required or permitted to be in any place of employment which is unsafe or unhealthful. (Labor Code 6402)

The Board expects all employees to use safe work practices and, to the extent possible, correct any unsafe conditions which may occur. If an employee is unable to correct an unsafe condition, he/she shall immediately report the problem to the supervisor or to the Superintendent or designee.

The Superintendent or designee shall promote safety and correct any unsafe work practices through education and enforcement.

(cf. 4117.4 - Dismissal)

(cf. 4118 - Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

The Superintendent or designee shall establish and implement a written injury and illness prevention program, and provide employees with access to such program, in accordance with law. (Labor Code 6401.7)

(cf. 3514 - Environmental Safety)

(cf. 3514.1 - Hazardous Substances)

(cf. 3516 - Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness Plan)

(cf. 4119.41/4219.41/4319.41 - Employees with Infectious Disease)

(cf. 4119.42/4219.42/4319.42 - Exposure Control Plan for Bloodborne Pathogens)

(cf. 4119.43/4219.43/4319.43 - Universal Precautions)

(cf. 4157.2/4257.2/4357.2 - Ergonomics)

(cf. 4158/4258/4358 - Employee Security)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure the ready availability of first aid materials at district workplaces and shall make effective provisions, in advance, for prompt medical treatment in the event of an employee's serious injury or illness. (8 CCR 3400)

No employee shall be discharged or discriminated against for making complaints, instituting proceedings, or testifying with regard to employee safety or health specified in Labor Code including:

1. Making a report or complaint
2. Instituting proceedings or causing proceedings to be instituted
3. Testifying with regard to employee safety or health

EMPLOYEE SAFETY

4. Participating in any occupational health and safety committee established pursuant to Labor Code 6401.7
5. Requesting access to injury or illness reports and records
6. Exercising any other right protected by the Occupational Safety and Health Act

*Legal Reference:**EDUCATION CODE**32030-32034 Eye safety**32225-32226 Communications devices in classrooms**32280-32289 School safety plans**44984 Required rules for industrial accident and illness leave of absence**GOVERNMENT CODE**3543.2 Scope of bargaining**LABOR CODE**132a Workers' compensation; nondiscrimination**3300 Definitions**6305 Occupational safety and health standards; special order**6310 Retaliation for filing complaint prohibited**6400-6413.5 Responsibilities and duties of employers and employees, especially:**6401.7 Injury and illness prevention program**CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 8**3203 Injury and illness prevention program**3204 Access to employee exposure and medical records**3400 Medical services and first aid**5095-5100 Control of noise exposure**5193 Bloodborne pathogens**14000-14316 Occupational injury or illness reports and records**CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 17**2508 Reporting of communicable diseases**CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 29**651-678 Occupational safety and health**1910.95 Occupational Noise standards**1910.1030 Bloodborne pathogens**Management Resources: (next page)*

EMPLOYEE SAFETY

Management Resources:

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS PUBLICATIONS

Guide to Developing Your Workplace Injury and Illness Prevention Program, rev. August 2005

WEB SITES

California Department of Industrial Relations, Occupational Safety and Health:

http://www.dir.ca.gov/occupational_safety.html

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov>

National Hearing Conservation Association: <http://www.hearingconservation.org>

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh>

U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration: <http://www.osha.gov>

Policy
adopted: June 24, 1997
revised: July 13, 2010
revised: March 9, 2021

VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Visalia, California

EMPLOYEE SAFETY

The personal safety and health of each district employee is of primary importance. All employees shall comply with all occupational safety and health standards, rules, regulations and orders required by law and district regulations.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide and implement safety devices, safeguards, methods, and processes that are reasonably adequate to render the employment and place of employment safe and healthful. (Labor Code 6401)

(cf. 4157.1/4257.1/4357.1 - Work-Related Injuries)

(cf. 4157.2/4257.2/4357.2 - Ergonomics)

(cf. 4161.11/4361.11 - Industrial Accident/Illness Leave)

(cf. 4261.1 - Industrial Accident/Illness Leave)

Injury and Illness Prevention Program

The district's injury and illness prevention program shall cover all district employees and all other workers whom the district controls or directs and directly supervises on the job to the extent that the workers are exposed to hazards specific to their worksite and job assignment. The obligation of contractors or other employers who control or direct and supervise their own employees on the job shall not be affected by the district's injury and illness prevention program. (Labor Code 6401.7)

The district's injury and illness prevention program shall include: (Labor Code 6401.7; 8 CCR 3203)

1. The name/position of the person(s) with authority and responsibility for implementing the program.
2. A system for ensuring that employees comply with safe and healthful work practices, which may include, but not be limited to:

- a. Recognition of employees who follow safe and healthful work practices

(cf. 4156.2/4256.2/4356.2 - Awards and Recognition)

- b. Training and retraining programs

- c. Disciplinary actions

(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

(cf. 4118 - Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

EMPLOYEE SAFETY (continued)

3. A system for communicating with employees, in a form readily understandable by all employees, on matters related to occupational health and safety, including provisions designed to encourage employees to report hazards at the worksite without fear of reprisal. The communications system may include, but not be limited to:
 - a. Meetings
 - b. Training programs
 - c. Posting
 - d. Written communications
 - e. A system of anonymous notification by employees about hazards
 - f. A labor/management safety and health committee
4. Procedures for identifying and evaluating workplace hazards, including scheduled periodic inspections to identify unsafe conditions and work practices. Such inspections shall be made:
 - a. Whenever new substances, processes, procedures, or equipment that represents a new occupational safety or health hazard is introduced into the workplace
 - b. Whenever the district is made aware of a new or previously unrecognized hazard

(cf. 3514 - Environmental Safety)
(cf. 3514.1 - Hazardous Substances)

5. A procedure for investigating occupational injury or illness.
6. Methods and/or procedures for correcting unsafe or unhealthful conditions, work practices, and work procedures in a timely manner, based on the severity of the hazard, when the hazard is observed or discovered.

When an imminent hazard exists which cannot be immediately abated without endangering employee(s) and/or property, these procedures shall call for the removal of all exposed staff from the area except those necessary to correct the hazardous condition. Employees needed to correct the condition shall be provided necessary safeguards.

EMPLOYEE SAFETY (continued)

7. Provision of training and instruction as follows:
 - a. To all new employees
 - b. To all employees given new job assignments for which training has not previously been received
 - c. Whenever new substances, processes, procedures, or equipment is introduced into the workplace and represents a new hazard
 - d. Whenever the district is made aware of a new or previously unrecognized hazard
 - e. To supervisors, to familiarize them with the safety and health hazards to which employees under their immediate direction and control may be exposed

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

The Superintendent or designee shall provide employees, or their representative designated pursuant to 8 CCR 3203, with either of the following: (8 CCR 3203)

1. Access to the district's injury and illness prevention program in a reasonable time, place, and manner, but in no event later than five business days after the request for access is received from an employee or a designated representative of the employee

When an employee or designated representative requests a copy of the district's injury and illness prevention program, the Superintendent or designee shall provide the requester a printed copy unless the employee or designated representative agrees to receive an electronic copy.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide one printed copy free of charge. If the employee or designated representative requests additional copies within one year of the previous request and the district's injury and illness prevention program has not been updated with new information since the prior copy was provided, the district may charge reasonable reproduction costs pursuant to 8 CCR 3204 for the additional copies.

2. Unobstructed access to the district's injury and illness prevention program through the district's server or web site, which allows an employee to review, print, and email the current version of the district's injury and illness prevention program

The Superintendent or designee shall communicate the right and procedure to access the district's injury and illness prevention program to all employees. (8 CCR 3203)

(cf. 4112.9/4212.9/4312.9 - Employee Notifications)

EMPLOYEE SAFETY (continued)

Labor/Management Safety and Health Committee

The district's labor/management safety and health committee shall: (8 CCR 3203)

1. Meet regularly, but not less than quarterly.
2. Prepare and make available to affected employees written records of the safety and health issues discussed at committee meetings and maintained for review by the California Department of Industrial Relations' Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) upon request. These records shall be maintained for at least one year.
3. Review results of the periodic, scheduled worksite inspections.
4. Review investigations of occupational accidents and causes of incidents resulting in occupational injury or illness or exposure to hazardous substances. As appropriate, the committee may submit suggestions to the Superintendent or designee regarding the prevention of future incidents.
5. Review investigations of alleged hazardous conditions brought to the attention of any committee member. When determined necessary by the committee, it may conduct its own inspection and investigation to assist in remedial solutions.
6. Submit recommendations to assist in the evaluation of employee safety suggestions.
7. Upon request of Cal/OSHA, verify abatement action taken by the district to abate citations issued by Cal/OSHA.

Hearing Protection

Whenever employee noise exposure equals or exceeds the standards specified in law, the Superintendent or designee shall implement a hearing conservation program in accordance with state and federal regulations, including, when required, monitoring of sound levels, audiometric testing of affected employees, the provision of hearing protectors, and employee training. (8 CCR 5095-5100; 29 CFR 1910.95)

Eye Safety Devices

Eye safety devices shall be worn by employees whenever they are engaged in or observing an activity involving hazards or hazardous substances likely to cause injury to the eyes. (Education Code 32030-32034)

EMPLOYEE SAFETY (continued)**First Aid and Medical Services**

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure the ready availability of medical personnel for advice and consultation on matters of industrial health or injury. Whenever a workplace is not in close proximity to an infirmary, clinic, or hospital where all injured employees may be treated, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that at least one employee is adequately trained to provide first aid. (8 CCR 3400)

The Superintendent or designee shall make adequate first aid materials readily available for employees at every worksite. Such materials shall be approved by a consulting physician and shall be kept in a sanitary and usable condition. The Superintendent or designee shall frequently inspect all first aid materials and replenish them as necessary. (8 CCR 3400)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that suitable facilities for quick drenching or flushing of the eyes and body are provided within the work area for immediate emergency use when the eyes or body or any person may be exposed to injurious corrosive materials. (8 CCR 3400)

To avoid unnecessary delay in medical treatment in the event of an employee's serious injury or illness, the Superintendent or designee shall use one or more of the following: (8 CCR 3400)

1. A communication system for contacting a physician or emergency medical service, such as access to 911 or equivalent telephone system. The communication system or the employees using the system shall have the ability to direct emergency services to the location of the injured or ill employee.
2. Readily accessible and available on-site treatment facilities suitable for treatment of reasonably anticipated injury and illness.

(cf. 5141.6 - School Health Services)

EMPLOYEE SAFETY (continued)

3. Proper equipment for prompt medical transport when transportation of injured or ill employees is necessary and appropriate.

Protection from Communicable Diseases and Infections

The Superintendent or designee shall develop an exposure control plan for bloodborne pathogens that is consistent with the district's injury and illness prevention program. The plan shall include a determination of which job classifications have occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials; precautions to be implemented, including universal precautions, engineering and work practice controls, and personal protective equipment; availability of the hepatitis B vaccination; provision of information and training to employees; and follow-up actions to be taken if exposure occurs. The district shall ensure that a copy of the exposure control plan is accessible to employees in accordance with law. (8 CCR 5193; 29 CFR 1910.1030)

(cf. 4119.42/4219.42/4319.42 - Exposure Control Plan for Bloodborne Pathogens)

(cf. 4119.43/4219.43/4319.43 - Universal Precautions)

Strategies to prevent and mitigate the outbreak or spread of infectious diseases shall be followed for diseases that are communicated through airborne transmission, skin-to-skin contact, foodborne transmission, or other casual or noncasual means. Such strategies shall include, but are not limited to, communication and training about the disease(s); campus closures and alternative means of instruction when necessary; preventative measures, such as social distancing, personal protective equipment, temperature checks, and/or any other health screening allowed by law; and cleaning and sanitization of district facilities and equipment.

(cf. 5141.22 - Infectious Diseases)

The Superintendent or designee shall immediately report to the local health officer the presence or suspected presence of any communicable disease. (17 CCR 2508)

COVID-19 Exposure

If the district receives notice of potential exposure to COVID-19, the Superintendent or designee shall, within one business day of the notice, take all of the following actions: (Labor Code 6409.6)

1. Provide a written notice to all employees, and the employers of subcontracted employees, who were on the premises at the same worksite as the qualifying individual within the infectious period that they may have been exposed to COVID-19. The notice shall be provided in a manner normally used to communicate employment-related information, which may include, but is not limited to, personal service, email, or text message if it can reasonably be anticipated to be received by the employee within one business day of sending.
2. Provide a written notice to the exclusive representative, if any, of employees who were on the premises within the infectious period

EMPLOYEE SAFETY (continued)

3. Provide all employees who may have been exposed and the exclusive representative, if any, with information regarding:
 - a. COVID-19-related benefits to which the employee may be entitled under applicable federal, state, or local laws, including, but not limited to, workers' compensation
 - b. Available leave options for exposed employees
 - c. Antiretaliation and antidiscrimination protections of the employee
4. Notify all employees, and the employers of subcontracted employees and the exclusive representative, if any, of the disinfection and safety plan that the district plans to complete in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines

The above notifications shall be maintained for a period of at least three years. (Labor Code 6409.6)

If the district is notified of the number of cases that meet the definition of a COVID-19 outbreak, as defined by the California Department of Public Health, within 48 hours, the Superintendent or designee shall, within 48 hours of the notice, notify the local public health agency of the names, number, occupation, and worksite of employees who meet the definition of a qualifying individual. The Superintendent or designee shall continue to give notice to the local health department of any subsequent laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 at the worksite. (Labor Code 6409.6)

In the event that Cal/OSHA prohibits entry into any district workplace or performance of a district operation or process based on a determination that the workplace exposes employees to the risk of COVID-19 infection and constitutes an imminent hazard to employees, the district shall post a notice thereof provided by Cal/OSHA in a conspicuous place at the work site. This notice shall not be removed except by an authorized representative of Cal/OSHA and only when the place of employment, operation, or process is made safe and the required safeguards or safety appliances or devices are provided. (Labor Code 6325)