

Regulation 3514: Environmental Safety

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 03/14/2001 | **Last Revised Date:** 03/14/2002

Air Quality

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the following measures are taken in order to reduce indoor air contaminants:

1. Heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems shall be operated, inspected, and maintained in accordance with 8 CCR 5142-5143. School buildings shall be inspected annually to ensure they have adequate ventilation systems which are properly maintained so as to preclude the buildup of mold, mildew, and other air contaminants. Filters shall be changed frequently.
2. Indoor painting of school buildings shall be limited to those times when school is not in session.
3. Low-emission cleaning products shall be used whenever possible, and custodial duties that require polluting products shall be performed after classes are dismissed.
4. Paints, adhesives, and solvents shall be used and stored in well-ventilated areas; these items shall be purchased in small quantities to avoid storage exposure.
5. Exterior wall and foundation cracks and openings shall be sealed as soon as possible to control exposure to radon.
6. Water-damaged ceiling tiles, carpet, and other building materials shall be removed as soon as practicable.
7. Plain water and/or soap and water and/or district standard materials shall be used as cleaning agents; aerosols, bleach, ammonia, and air fresheners shall be avoided and not kept at sites.
8. Pest control measures shall involve the use of integrated pest management procedures (IPM).

(cf. 3514.2 - Integrated Pest Management)

Lead Exposure Reduction

Note: Items #1-3 below reflect recommendations of the state Department of Health Services in its report to the State Legislature in April 1998. For information about the safe removal of paint, districts should call their local health department or the Department of Health Services' Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention hotline.

The following steps shall be taken to minimize potential exposure to lead:

1. Painted surfaces shall be kept intact whenever possible. To minimize lead dust during maintenance operations, a tarp or plastic shall be placed under paint removal operations to collect old paint debris, paint shall be dampened before removing it with a scraper, nearby surfaces shall be cleaned with a wet mop or cloth after the job is completed, a High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) attachment may be used on power sanders, and clean-up may be conducted with HEPA vacuums to remove lead dust. An open flame shall not be used to remove old paint.
2. Soil with high lead content may be covered with grass, other plantings, concrete or asphalt. Children's access to bare soil shall be limited.
3. When drinking water is found to have unacceptable levels of lead, water outlets shall be flushed daily for at least 30 seconds prior to use. The Superintendent or designee also may reduce lead concentrations in the source water, install a corrosion control device at the school's point of entry, or provide bottled water as appropriate.
4. Lead exposure hazards shall be evaluated before any renovation or remodeling is begun and children shall not be allowed in or near buildings in which these activities may create lead dust. Contractors and workers shall comply with state and federal standards related to the handling and disposal of lead debris and the clean-up and containment dust within the construction area.
5. The Superintendent or designee may provide parents/guardians and students with information about the prevention of lead poisoning.

(cf. 5141.32 - Child Health and Disability Prevention Program)

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 32243, the district must use trained, state-certified contractors, inspectors and workers when taking remedial action to abate existing lead hazards. Regulations establishing a program to certify lead inspectors, contractors and workers are specified in 17 CCR 35001-35099.

6. Remedial action to abate existing lead hazards shall be taken only by personnel qualified in accordance with law. (Education Code 32243)

Asbestos Testing and Abatement

Note: Education Code 49410.5 requires the district to comply with Environmental Protection Agency guidelines for asbestos materials inspection and testing and for protecting workers and other individuals during the encapsulation and removal of asbestos. Education Code 49410.7 sets forth state requirements related to determining the need for removal and the monitoring of airborne asbestos levels; for further information, consult the local air quality management district or air pollution control district.

Maintenance staff shall be trained in the location, identification, proper cleaning and ongoing maintenance of asbestos-containing materials and in the removal and decontamination of small amounts of such materials when needed to repair pipes or perform similar duties. Extensive asbestos abatement work shall be completed by state-certified asbestos abatement contractors in compliance with state and federal standards.

The district's complete, updated management plan for material containing asbestos in school buildings shall be available for inspection in district and school offices during normal business hours. Parent, teacher, and employee organizations shall annually be informed of the availability of this plan. (40 CFR 763.93)

(cf. 3580 - District Records)

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

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

Other Environmental Safety Precautions

Principals or their designees shall enforce school rules designed to:

1. Prevent the accumulation of flammable, noxious, or otherwise dangerous materials unless adequate safeguards are provided.

(cf. 6161.3 - Toxic Art Supplies)

2. Keep all school facilities free of debris.

3. Keep walkways at all times open to pedestrian traffic and clear of obstructions.

Air Pollution Episodes

1. Notification

Notification from the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District that a smog episode is predicted or has been attained shall be received by the district office. The district office shall transmit the notification to the offices of:

- a. The principal of each school.

- b. The Director of Building and Grounds Maintenance

- c. The Director of Transportation.

- d. The Director of Food Services.

Upon receipt of the notification, the district offices listed above shall take action as prescribed in the following sections.

2. Predicted Air Pollution Episode

It is anticipated that notification of predicted smog episodes will be received on the day before (except when the prediction is for a Monday or for the day after a holiday, in which case it is anticipated that notification will be

received on the morning of the day for which the prediction is made).

School staff shall be prepared to modify programs requiring, for students, prolonged or strenuous physical activities on the day of the predicted smog episode. Strenuous activity is any activity which results in breathing by mouth rather than by nose. When a smog episode is predicted for the following day:

a. Strenuous physical activities shall not be planned for school physical education classes which are scheduled after noon on the day for which an episode is predicted.

b. Practice sessions requiring prolonged or strenuous physical activities (athletic teams, band, drill teams, etc.) shall be planned to be held prior to the beginning of the school day or after sunset on the day for which an episode is predicted.

The principal or designee shall postpone, cancel, or relocate "home" athletic events scheduled between noon and sunset on the day for which an air pollution episode is predicted.

3. Predicted Stage I Air Pollution Episode

If the notification of a predicted Stage I air pollution episode for the following day is received before the end of the school day and/or staff working day, principals and supervisors shall advise all students and staff members present at their plant of the predicted smog episode and request their cooperation for reduced vehicular use and car pools on the following day.

4. Predicted Stage II Air Pollution Episode

To comply with the traffic abatement portion of Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District Regulation VII, each principal and department head shall develop a plan including methods for monitoring for their school/department which provides for a significant reduction in vehicle miles driven to and from school/department (target 65%). These plans shall be submitted to the Superintendent annually not later than October 1 for approval.

If notification of a predicted Stage II Air Pollution Episode for the following day is received before the end of the school day and/or working day, principals and supervisors shall notify students and staff members that the plan is to be implemented for the day of the predicted Stage II Episode.

5. Predicted Stage III Air Pollution Episode

If notification of a predicted Stage III Smog Episode is received for the following day, the Superintendent will:

a. Declare the school day for which the episode is predicted a minimum day with all classes ending by 1:00 p.m.

b. Direct schools/departments to reduce energy consumption by 40 percent.

c. Direct principals/supervisors to implement traffic abatement plan developed to implement predicted Stage II Smog Episode regulation.

Notwithstanding the above provisions, the district will, upon a specific directive, under the law, from the Executive Officer of the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District, operate on a day for which a Stage III Smog Episode is predicted as though that day were a national holiday.

Upon the notification of a predicted Stage III Smog Episode for the same day and upon the direction of the Superintendent, all district operations will be subject to the District Emergency Procedure policies and activities.

If a Stage I, Stage II or Stage III Smog Episode is attained, the appropriate provisions of the following sections shall become effective.

6. Attained Air Pollution Episode

The district office, upon receipt of information from the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District that a Stage I, Stage II, or Stage III Air Pollution Episode has been attained, shall immediately transmit the notification to the offices of:

a. The principal of each school

b. The Director of Building and Grounds Maintenance

c. The Director of Transportation

d. The Director of Food Services.

After an air pollution episode is attained, the district office will monitor the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District radio frequency to obtain air contaminant readings for Zone 24. If a call reveals that all readings fall below Stage I episode levels, the district office shall immediately notify the above offices that the Air Pollution Episode has ended.

Upon receipt of a notification that an Air Pollution Episode has been attained, each principal/supervisor shall be responsible for notifying all students and staff members present at his/her plant that an episode has been attained and shall prominently display the red smog flag until sunset or until the air pollution episode has ended, whichever occurs first. The Directors of Building and Grounds Maintenance, Transportation, and Food Services shall be responsible for notifying employees working in the maintenance and transportation facilities and kitchens, respectively.

Once an air pollution episode has been attained and the notification has been transmitted to the offices listed above, the procedures required by these regulations shall remain in effect until notification has been received in the designated office of the facility that the episode has ended or, in the case of an ozone episode, until sunset, whichever occurs first. In determining whether a proposed activity can be conducted during an attained air pollution episode, supervising personnel shall examine each proposed activity to determine its potential for unmistakably increasing the respiration rate for an extended period. The intensity of an activity may be the deciding factor as to whether it shall be included in, or excluded from, the program of the day.

7. Attained Stage I Air Pollution Episode

a. Regular School Activities

During a Stage I Air Pollution Episode, strenuous physical activities for all students shall be discontinued. Activities of a less strenuous nature should be substituted. All students, when practicable, shall be allowed to remain indoors. Children having respiratory difficulties aggravated by smog, children who have notes from parents or doctors, and children who are complaining about the effects of the smog must be allowed to remain indoors.

b. Athletic Events

The principal or designee shall postpone, cancel, or relocate a "home" athletic event if a Stage I Air Pollution Episode which was not predicted has been attained for the game site area one hour before the event is scheduled to begin.

c. Practice Sessions (Athletic Teams, Band, Drill Team, etc.)

(1) The school principal or designee shall keep informed of the air contaminant level readings on days of a predicted air pollution episode.

(2) Practice sessions being conducted during an attained Stage I Air Pollution Episode shall conform with the provisions of this section.

d. Building and Grounds Maintenance and Transportation Department Activities

(1) Activities out of doors by Building and Grounds Maintenance and Transportation staff shall be limited to those which do not require prolonged or strenuous physical activities.

(2) District vehicular activities shall be limited to emergency repair response, home-to-school-to-home busing, return to the district of students and staff who are away from the district, or transport of students by bus to a previously scheduled event in a location where an air pollution episode has not been predicted for the time of the scheduled event. Where possible the district will use diesel engine buses.

8. Attained Stage II Air Pollution Episode

a. Regular School Activities

During a Stage II Air Pollution Episode, strenuous physical activities by all students shall be discontinued. All students shall be required to remain inside.

b. Co-curricular and extracurricular activities

During a Stage II Air Pollution Episode, all co-curricular and extracurricular activities shall be canceled.

c. Building and Grounds Maintenance and Transportation Department Activities

(1) The Directors of Building and Grounds Maintenance and Transportation shall require all employees working on the outside of facilities to return to the Maintenance and Transportation facilities. Employees shall then remain inside during the Stage II Air Pollution Episode except those required for emergency response and necessary busing of students home.

(2) District vehicular activity shall be limited to necessary busing of students home and extreme emergency response.

(3) All school facilities shall be closed to use by outside groups for recreational purposes.

9. Attained Stage III Air Pollution Episode

Upon the notification by the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District that a Stage III Air Pollution Episode has been attained in the Victor Valley Union High School District and upon the direction of the Superintendent, all district operations will be subject to the MDAQMD policies and activities.

The principal of each school, the Directors of Building and Grounds Maintenance, and Transportation shall establish written procedures for modifying programs and for notifying students and/or staff of predicted and attained smog episodes. Such procedures shall, in the case of attained smog episodes, provide for verification that all required notification has occurred.
