

Holiday Season Issue Nov. 2019

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Enjoy A Safe Holiday Season



Holiday safety is an issue that burns brightest from late November to mid-January, when families gather, parties are scheduled and travel spikes. Take some basic precautions to ensure your family remains safe and injury-free throughout the season.



Traveling for the Holidays? Be Prepared

Many people choose to travel by car during the holidays, which has the highest fatality rate of any major form of transportation based on fatalities per passenger mile. In 2017, 329 people died on New Year's Day, 463 on Thanksgiving Day and 299 on Christmas Day, according to [Injury Facts](#). Alcohol impairment was involved in about a third of the fatalities.

Stay safe on the roads over the holidays and every day:

- [Prepare your car for winter](#) and [keep an emergency preparedness kit](#) with you
- Get a good night's sleep before departing and avoid [drowsy driving](#)
- Leave early, planning ahead for heavy traffic
- Make sure [every person in the vehicle is properly buckled up](#) no matter how long or short the distance traveled
- Put that cell phone away; [many distractions occur while driving](#), but cell phones are the main culprit
- Practice defensive driving
- Designate a sober driver to ensure guests make it home safely after a holiday party; [alcohol](#) or over-the-counter, prescription and illegal drugs can cause impairment

It's Better to Give Safely

Gifts and toys should inspire joy, not cause injuries. More than a quarter of a million children were seriously injured in toy-related incidents in 2017. Avoid safety hazards while gifting with these tips from [the American Academy of Pediatrics](#) and the [U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission](#):

- Toys are age-rated for safety, not for children's intellect and physical ability, so choose toys in the correct age range
- Choose toys for children under 3 that do not have small parts which could be choking hazards
- For children under 10, avoid toys that must be plugged into an electrical outlet
- Be cautious about toys that have [button batteries or magnets](#), which can be harmful or fatal if swallowed
- When giving scooters and other riding toys, give the gift of appropriate safety gear, too; helmets should be worn at all times and they should be sized to fit

To find out about holiday toy safety and recalls, check the [U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission](#) website.



Watch Out for Fire-Starters

PREVENT FIRES
IT'S YOUR JOB!



Candles and Fireplaces

Use of candles and fireplaces, combined with an increase in the amount of combustible, seasonal decorations in many homes during the holidays, means more risk for fire. The [National Fire Protection Association](#) reports that one-third of home decoration fires are started by candles and that two of every five decoration fires happen because the decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



- Place candles where they cannot be knocked down or blown over and out of reach of children.
- Keep matches and lighters up high and out of reach for children in a locked cabinet.
- Use flameless, rather than lighted, candles near flammable objects.
- Don't burn trees, wreaths or wrapping paper in the fireplace.
- Use a screen on the fireplace at all times when a fire is burning.
- Never leave candles or fireplaces burning unattended or when you are asleep.
- Check and clean the chimney and fireplace area at least once a year.

Be alert to the dangers if you're thinking of celebrating the holidays by frying a turkey. The [Consumer Product Safety Commission](#) reports there have been 154 turkey-fryer related fires, burns or other injuries since 2004, with \$5.2 million in property damage losses have resulted from these incidents.

NSC discourages the use of turkey fryers at home and urges those who prefer fried turkey to seek out professional establishments or consider using an oil-less turkey fryer. If you must fry your own turkey, follow all [U.S. Fire Administration turkey fryer guidelines](#).



Long awaited staff joins our team



1 - Shout-Out to William Wiley, our newest team member on the Environmental Compliance team.

Mr. William Wiley joined our Environmental Compliance team at the end of October 2019. He comes to us from Broward County and will be supporting the Asbestos Management, Indoor Air Quality, and SMART Programs for the south portion of the County (South of Sunrise). Mr. Wiley is a Certified Microbial Consultant, State of Florida Mold Assessor, Asbestos Inspector & Contractor/Supervisor, and has many years of experience with a multitude of environmental and occupational hazards. Please Welcome Mr. Wiley.



2 - Shout-out to Adam Finn, newest member on the Energy Conservation & Utility Mgmt. team.

Mr. Adam Finn, is not new to the District. He was formerly with PPO Zone One. Mr. Finn is a journeyman HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) mechanic. His major duties include the installation, repair and maintenance of District temperature control systems. Please welcome Mr. Finn to our team.

Talking Trash about Refuse Compactors





[Broward County Public School District is always looking for ways to reduce operating costs. One of our larger operating expense items are the](#) costs associated with managing the solid waste being generated throughout the District. **As a School District, we historically spend approximately six (6) million dollars annually managing our waste disposal.** The cost of waste disposal is made up two major components, *collection and disposal*. *Collection* includes the cost associated with containing, collecting, and delivering the waste to a post collection facility. The waste is delivered directly to a landfill or incinerator for immediate disposal, or taken to a transfer station where multiple loads of waste are delivered, consolidated, and then reloaded onto a larger delivery vehicle for transport to a landfill for permanent disposal.

Broward County School District does a commendable job managing our disposal cost with our District-Wide Recycling Program, as the commodities are re-purposed.

The Recycling Program also saves the District money on collection, as collection costs for recycling are not subjected to the high cost of County and/or Franchise fees. Recycling saves the District money; however the Environmental Conservation & Utility Management Department is always searching for ***alternative ways to reduce our waste disposal cost***. One such way is by **installing waste compaction units at our high volume locations**. Compactors save money in fuel, time, and transportation cost by compacting or densifying the waste into a fixed container reducing number of times the waste must be collected at our locations. **Instead of having a refuse hauler on our sites five (5) times per week to service the smaller front-load dumpsters, compactors in most cases only need serviced one (1) or two (2) times per month.**

The following example highlights the financial impact installing a 30 cubic yard compactor has on our refuse removal expenses versus a conventional frontend load container(s):

EXAMPLE: Stoneman Douglas High School

CAPITAL PURCHASE EXPENSE Compactor Cost: \$20,795 + Installation: **\$40,450 = Total Investment: \$61,245**

COLLECTION/DISPOSAL EXPENSE (*Frontend load containers*)

CURRENT Monthly Service Expense: **\$8,056 x 12 = \$96,672 Total Annualized Expense**

(There are two (2) Eight Cubic Yard dumpsters (8 CY) that get picked up by front end loaders (FEL) 5x/week)

COLLECTION/DISPOSAL EXPENSE (30 Yard Self-Contained Compactor)

PROJECTED Monthly Compactor Expense: **\$921** (2x/month)= $\$1824 \times 12 =$ **\$21,888** Total Annualized Projected Expense

Annual Net Cost Avoidance/Savings: \$74,784

In addition, compactors reduce the problems that come with front-load containers such as illegal dumping and employee pilferage.

A trash compactor minimizes accidental spills or trash blowing out of conventional dumpsters. Loose trash creates more problems with odors and pest infestation. Compactors reduce truck traffic on our campuses, while reducing the risk of employee injuries due to lifting and lowering hazards, as our compactors are equipped with hydraulic lifts and carts. In closing, compactors are more cost effective, they're ergonomically designed, they minimize odors, spillage and varmint infestation, and from a pure business standpoint, they pay for themselves on the average in 9.6 months.

Who knew that talking trash could be so informative!!!

'Tis the Season



It seems that the true meaning of these holidays sometimes gets lost as we get caught up in the 'hustle and bustle' of shopping, cooking, preparation for travel and/or receiving visitors. However, if we stop for a moment and reflect on the messages of **Thankfulness, Kindness, and Sharing we can come up with ways to do more than verbally express those sentiments; we can actually find ways to BE the personification of those sentiments.**

EH&S is proud to continue its tradition of adopting a family at this time of year; it's our collective way of expressing gratitude, spreading kindness, and sharing in the joys of the Holiday Season.

This year we have adopted a family from Northside Elementary School. Family includes ten (10) year old fraternal twins (M&F), and eleven (11) and twelve (12) year old sisters. Like every other child, they have a Christmas wish list; and we with staff donations, play the role of Santa. In addition to the specific wish list items, we also give gifts of clothing and personalized stocking stuffed with toothbrushes, candy canes, cards etc. to help with the reality of growing children.

We want every child to enjoy the holiday; knowing that these children will have gifts to open and can return to school after the holiday and talk about what they received, gives us 'warm fuzzies' knowing that we have made a difference in one family's life.

We encourage you to find a way to share with those who have less than you. Maybe, that may translate into you or you and your family volunteering at a food kitchen to feed the homeless, or donating gifts, or inviting a senior who is alone to join your family for a family meal. There are so many ways... if we just stop and give thought to the true meaning of these holidays.

Kindness is like snow. It beautifies everything it covers - Kahil Gibran

INDOOR AIR QUALITY POLLUTANTS: HIGHLIGHT ON VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS (VOCs)



As discussed last quarter, Indoor Air Quality is always a concern when one or more people reside in an indoor space for any period of time. One of the factors of Poor Indoor Air Quality are **POLLUTANTS** found within our indoor environments. **Indoor pollutants** could be **Particulates** (pollen, animal dander, insect debris, dust, dust mites, mold spores) OR **Volatile Organic Compounds** (off gassing of building

materials and furnishings or "that new car smell"). The following information will focus on the potential pollutants, specifically Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), utilized by occupants in our buildings.

VOCs are carbon-containing organic chemicals emitted by a wide variety of products present in indoor air. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lists the following household and other VOC sources on their website (<https://www.epa.gov/indoor-air-quality-iaq/volatile-organic-compounds-impact-indoor-air-quality>.)



- **paints, paint strippers and other solvents**
- **wood preservatives**
- **aerosol sprays**
- **cleansers and disinfectants**
- **moth repellents and air fresheners**
- **stored fuels and automotive products**
- **hobby supplies**
- **dry-cleaned clothing**
- **pesticide**
- **building materials and furnishings**
- **office equipment: copiers and printers, correction fluids, etc.**
- **graphics and craft materials: glues and adhesives, permanent markers and photographic solutions**

There are no federally enforceable standards set for VOCs in non-industrial settings. These products may result in reactive symptoms including irritated skin, eyes, nose and throat and upper airways. They may also create dry mucous membranes, redness or inflammation of the skin, headache, and abnormal taste. *The goal is to minimize the use of these products* or provide sufficient ventilation during use.

[Washington State Department of Health School Indoor Air Quality Best Management Practices Manual November 2003].

Common Indoor Air Problems



Moisture



VOCs and Chemicals



Smoking



Dust



Pet Odor

EH&S recommends AGAINST the use of room deodorizers, air fresheners, scented candles, scented oils in classrooms or offices. Any product that is highly scented is going to be rich in VOCs.

1. You are only masking the potential issue causing the odor

2. You don't know who might be sensitive to the chemicals and have a bad reaction

Same goes for household cleaning products.

The Head Facility Service Person at each facility can provide approved cleaning products (i.e. *Wexcide* for disinfectant on all surfaces) for your use on an as needed basis. Children should never be directed to use cleaning chemicals, disinfectant wipes, or other hazardous chemicals at school, but they can and should help keep their classrooms clean. Children can assist with the clean-up of small classroom spills (food, water, art supplies) with damp paper towels. Be sure to notify the onsite Facility Service Person so additional cleanup can be conducted.

School Construction - Hazardous Building Materials



In 1986, the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** implemented the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) under the Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA). A letter is sent out each year documenting Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) related activities within our district. The AHERA Management Plans are hard copies organized chronologically in one or more three ring binders. A document for each facility is located at the EH&S Department and each facility has a copy in the administrative area of the location.

EH&S - Environmental Compliance does a visual inspection/assessment of the known or assumed asbestos containing materials every 6 months. The known or assumed asbestos containing **building materials present at most facilities are non-friable and encased within ceilings, metal or underground. This means that as long as these materials are not disturbed, there will be no asbestos fiber release and therefore, no hazard to inhabitants.**

Everyday activities by administration, students, parents, and staff, will not disturb the known asbestos containing building materials if present at your facility.

Many of your facilities may be in the midst of construction related to the SMART bond program projects. The Environmental Health & Safety Department - Environmental Compliance section is involved in the preparations for the construction by providing a Pre-Renovation Asbestos and/or Lead Based Paint Survey for each facility/project. We work with the HEERY Project Managers and selected General contractors to develop a plan to abate (remove) any asbestos or lead based paint materials which may be disturbed. Our team, including SBBC Project Managers, consultants and contractors, manage the abatements (removal) and proper disposal of these materials. Necessary containment (protections), monitoring, and air sampling is conducted during and after removal activities. The final reports of these abatement activities are also included in the AHERA management plan.

For more information on the Asbestos Management Program or other Environmental Compliance/Health & Safety issues please visit the Environmental Health & Safety Website or email - EHS-help@browardschools.com

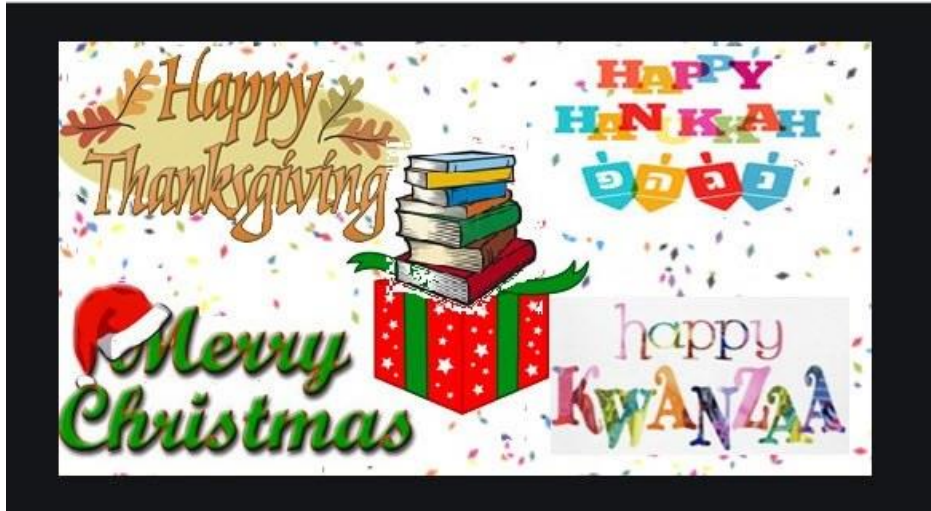
EH&S Making News



As a result of the Energy tools for Schools program, the shared savings incentive awards for 2019 is \$144,250,00

Look For It . . . EH&S is proud to announce the development of Supervisor Safety Awareness Training.

This online 'Supervisory Safety Awareness Training' course provides all Broward County Public School (BCPS) supervisory personnel (School-Based & District) with health and safety awareness training as mandated under Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA), State Requirements for Educational Facilities (SREF) and District Policy. The goal of this training is for all supervisory personnel to become knowledgeable of safe work practices, injury/illness prevention, environmental stewardship, regulatory compliance and continual improvement. Upon successful completion, supervisory personnel will receive an Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) Manual (hard copy) and Certificate of Completion.



“[Gratitude](#) can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.” – **William Arthur Ward**

Special Thanks. . .with gratitude

- To our Facility Service team, who keep our building a physical space that is always clean and welcoming
- To all our partnerships, especially BCPS Transportation's Training Department and all the individual CPR instructors whose support make all our Mass CPR training events possible
- And to all the other Departments that interface with us and work to accomplish District goals and objectives.

May the coming year bring new happiness, new goals, new achievements and a lot of new inspirations. Be Safe, Be Blessed. Peace

Contact Us

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Environmental Compliance, Health & Safety)*

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