



A New School Year 2018

Your Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) team welcomes you back to the 2018-19 school year. This NEW school year will be exciting and filled with many EH&S program enhancements, improvements and opportunities. The EH&S team has been busy this past summer and this edition of "Heart Beat EH&S Newsletter" will keep you in the loop on the latest activities.

Each of you make the EH&S team and Broward County Public Schools stronger, safer and a better place to learn and work. Thank you.



“The only way to make change is to see these challenges that we face as opportunities.”

– Adam Bellow, *Educator*

See What EH&S Was Doing Over the Summer . . .



Don't know about you, but "time" just seems to fly by the older I get! Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) has had a busy few months over the summer.

Our Safety Training team, led by Ms. Hyacinthe Lafontant, was busy pulling together some very different EH&S projects . . .

PPO Partnership



We partnered with PPO and their Summer Interns Program. The 13 high school students, who participated in this year's program, not only received hands-on learning in the area of trades, but also participated in two days of safety training on the trades, life-long safety attitudes and risky behaviors.

Your EH&S Environmental Compliance team, led by Alison Witoshynsky, provided students with hard facts on Asbestos: what, where, who, when and actions necessary to remain healthy and safe while working, or even at their homes. She also facilitated awareness level training on Lead Based Paint.

The EH&S Safety Training team introduced them to Hazardous Energy: what it is, its different forms and safety procedures called Lock out /Tag out (LOTO). Summer Interns learned what must be used to protect individuals from the release of Hazardous Energy. They also learned about Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Ladder Safety. Ms. Lafontant relied on her classroom skills to have students participate in the learning experience by providing laptops, having them conduct research activities and present their findings on safe use of Hand and Power tools and then gauged their learning via KAHOOT, which made them feel right at home!

Safety training was concluded with last, but not least, Fire Safety & Equipment by our Chief Fire Official, Dr. MaryAnn May and members of her team, who provided Summer Interns with invaluable information that I am sure by their inquisitive questions will be invaluable for their future careers.

Vehicle Maintenance And EPA of Broward County



This is the second consecutive year that EH&S has collaborated with Transportation in facilitating the coordination of this state mandated event for all of the District's Transportation Department's Vehicle Maintenance staff. The workshop titled "Environmental Compliance" is a "personalized" presentation based on findings at our district sites. Its focus is on the proper management of toxic hazardous waste from auto repair and underground storage tanks that contain our fuel. The training is conducted in two sessions in order to minimize the disruption of the department's work.

There are a multitude of facets in our District that exist to support the primary role of educating future leaders. Who thinks about where the water that we wash our cars actually goes? Well, when it comes to a fleet of buses, guess who? The EPA does! This workshop acts as a reminder to staff of how their actions, and the steps not taken, as well as the proper maintenance of our equipment have a far reaching and continuous impact on our drinking water, the soil that grows our food, and ultimately, the

air we breathe! your environmental health is a major function of the Environmental Health & Safety Department.

Facilities Service Conference



June 2018 marked the second annual Facilities Service Persons Conference sponsored by PPO's Custodial Grounds. Under the leadership of Mr. Benjamin Osborne and his team, several departments (Employee Relations, Benefits, Talent Acquisition - Non-Instructional, Risk Management **and Environmental Health & Safety**) came together to collaborate on the planning and development of this year's event. The focus of the event was to provide Head Facility Service Persons and their Assistants with information/training to enhance their ability to safely and properly maintain our school board buildings. It was also an opportunity for potential vendors to showcase their products and interface directly with those who would utilize their products.

EH&S not only served on the planning committee, but also facilitated, along with six other departments, two full days of training and information sharing. EH&S areas of focus were **Control of Hazardous Energy (LOTO)** and **Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)**. LOTO training stressed the importance of being aware of potential hazardous energy releases and the LOTO signage that might get posted in their environments due to the present and future school improvement projects. Our other topic, Indoor Air Quality, (IAQ)

provided a summary of the IAQ protocol and assessment request process. Participants discussions covered: the Overall IAQ Protocol Process, the FIVE (5) step to follow to help building occupants/facilities staff correct most causes of IAQ Complaints, and when an IAQ Assessment Request is needed. These two topics were of great importance to the attendees because they relate to personal safety and problems that arise regarding issues of your building's environment.

The two-day event was opened each day with a general session where participants were addressed by representative of the Board, Superintendent's office, Director of Physical Plant Operation, and our Chief of Performance and Accountability, Dr. Valerie Wanza.

Dr. Wanza is consistently a welcomed speaker, as she personally identifies with her audience where she often finds former students that are now also part of the district staff. She spoke to them honestly and left them motivated and ready to engage in the days' events. Daily sessions culminated with a presentation by Special Investigative Unit (SIU) regarding new safety directives and role of Facilities Service-persons during code red alerts.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY MANUAL

2018



Environmental Health & Safety Department

Website: <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/ehs/>


EH&S is proud to announce the production of a new EH&S Manual. Considerable content does apply directly to the trades; however, this new manual is comprehensive. It incorporates important information that is valuable for all staff, regardless of department or duties in schools and/or administrative sites. Copies of this manual were distributed to principals at their recent new school year's Principal's Conference.

You will also be able to access the manual on the EH&S Share Point site (<https://www.browardschools.com/cms/lib/FL01803656/Centricity/Domain/13473/FINALEHSManual2018v2.pdf>).

Plans for further distribution of the EH&S Safety Manual for all departments will be associated with a new Supervisor Safety Awareness Online course that will be hosted via Canvas.

Keep your eye posted for further announcements regarding this Supervisor Safety Awareness training.

Recycling at BCPS - Works When You Work



BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WE RECYCLE


The Environmental Conservation and Utility Management Department wants to thank everyone for their continued efforts to **RECYCLE**. Together we have greatly increased the participation and quality of the program over the past year. **RECYCLING** truly works when we make it a normal part of our daily operations. Our Administrators, Custodial and Cafeteria Staff, our Teachers and most importantly our Students will all play a vital role in continuing the success of the program. Please get involved and get on board to **REDUCE, REUSE AND RECYCLE** everyday.

Each SBBC location's designee(s) will be responsible for delivery of recyclable materials from areas within the facility to the recycling collection dumpsters. All materials will be commingled in the collection dumpster. These materials will include, but not be limited to:

1.) Mixed paper products including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flattened corrugated cardboard• Office, computer and copier paper• Newspaper, magazines, catalogs, telephone• Manila folders, envelopes and junk mail• Printshop paper, note pads, etc.	2.) Commingled food and beverage containers including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aluminum cans• Juice boxes, milk and juice cartons• Glass bottles and jars• Plastic bottles and jugs
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IMPORTANT: ONLY RECYCLABLE MATERIALS ARE TO BE PLACED IN THE COLLECTION DUMPSTERS. PLEASE: NO BLACK BAGS, REGULAR TRASH, LIQUIDS, OR FOOD PRODUCTS OF ANY KIND. ALL CARDBOARD BOXES NEED TO BE BROKEN DOWN TO CONSERVE SPACE, AND ALL FOOD CONTAINERS MUST BE CLEANED BEFORE BEING PLACED IN THE RECYCLING DUMPSTERS.

We will always welcome your ideas and suggestions on improving the success of the program, including ideas pertaining to incentives and recognition programs. By working together to increase the **RECYCLING** volumes, we will significantly reduce the impact waste has on the environment, while reducing the School District's operating costs. Please contact Environmental Conservation and Utility Management Department at 754-321-4220 or notify the "EMSHelp Desk", if you have any ideas, need supplies have questions, and/or requests. Thank You!



New Homes for Owls



The Environmental Compliance Section of the Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) Department tracks and monitors the presence of burrowing owls located on school properties. Florida burrowing owls are currently classified as **State Threatened Species** by the [Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission](#). This means that taking, possessing, or selling burrowing owls, their nests (i.e., burrows), or eggs is prohibited without a permit (68A-27 F.A.C.). Burrowing owls, eggs, and young are also protected by the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Burrowing owls may nest in any month of the year; however, nesting generally takes place between February 15th and July 10th with fledglings appearing outside the burrows in July and August. Florida burrowing owls excavate their own burrows, which are typically between 5 and 10 feet long. They can have one breeding burrow and 1 or more satellite burrows.

If a burrow is observed and located within a playground, track area, football field, baseball field or a proposed construction site on school grounds, we instruct school staff to prohibit activities in the vicinity of the burrow (greater than 33 feet from burrow) and promptly notify the EH&S department. Upon notification we will arrange for the installation of a 10 foot square barrier around the burrow utilizing rope, wood, or PVC (not plastic fencing), a perch and sign explaining this is a protected bird site and that molesting owls or their nests is a crime. The 10 foot barrier allows for string cutting with hand held equipment and mowing outside of the barrier. The Environmental Compliance section of EH&S

periodically visually inspects identified facilities and burrow(s) during the nesting season for activity including the number of burrows, number of owls present, and if there are any young present.

Recently, with assistance of [South Florida Audubon Society's Project Perch](#), two new "starter burrows" were installed at South Plantation High School in an effort to entice the observed family of burrowing owls to relocate away from the football field. Irrigation piping and access boxes are modified and then installed in excavations to provide a nest box and tunnel attracting burrowing owls and allowing the owls to continue digging. The rope barrier with wood perch and signage is an example of what will be installed at natural burrows located at your facility.

Additional information is available by calling the Environmental Compliance section at 754-321-4200 or exploring the following web sites linked in this article.



It is not only what we do,
but also what we do not do,
for which we are accountable.

- Moliere



We are your EH&S Department

*Contact us regarding safety/safety training, energy management, recycling, water leaks,
environmental issues and concerns at 754 321-4200 or [email EHS-
Help@browardschools.com](mailto:Help@browardschools.com)*

BE SAFE!
