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OSSOA LOGO CONTEST!

OSSOA is looking for a logo! OSSOA is sponsoring a logo design contest among member school district students. We would like a logo suitable for use on letterhead, newsletters and other correspondence. There is a \$500 prize for the school district submitting the winning design.

Please let your district's students know about this opportunity to have their work showcased for a worthy cause and to earn \$500 for their school at the same time.

Rules: 1) One submission per member district (You will need to choose a local winner.) 2) Submissions must be made on 8 1/2" x 11" media with the name, school name, and district of entrant. 3) Submissions must be made by June 20 to Nancy Coursey at OSBA. 4) Finalists will be chosen and displayed at the conference for a final vote among attendees. 5) The winning entry will earn \$500 for the submitting district.



CONFERENCE UPDATE

Final preparation are being made as we get ready for the 21st annual OSSOA conference in Bend on July 22. There are some great speakers scheduled, including a representative from Landscape Structures to talk about playground inspection and maintenance; Mark Darienzo, Earthquake Program Coordinator for Oregon Emergency Management; Laura Weiss from Oregon's Healthy Schools Task Force; a representative from ODE to talk about the NCLB Persistently Dangerous School legislation, and Robert Baker from the Hope Crisis Response Team. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about some great programs and spend some time networking with your colleagues.

REGISTER SOON!

The OSSOA Summer Conference is scheduled for July 22, 2003 at the Inn of the Seventh Mountain in Bend.

Registration materials have been sent this month. You can also get more information on the web site: www.ossoa.org.



Hope Crisis Response

One of the guest speakers at this years annual conference is Robert Baker from Hope Crisis response. Hope Crisis Response is a non-profit organization which provides animal-assisted support to people in crisis or in the aftermath of disasters.

Dogs and their handlers undergo special training to become crisis team members and the dogs must be registered as therapy animals and pass a special pre-screening before beginning the training. Handlers pay for their own training and volunteer their time to work with the crisis team.

Hope Crisis Response has been involved in support at the school shooting at Thurston High School in Springfield and in New York City after the terrorist attacks of September 11.

You can get more information about Hope Crisis Response on their website: www.hopeacr.org



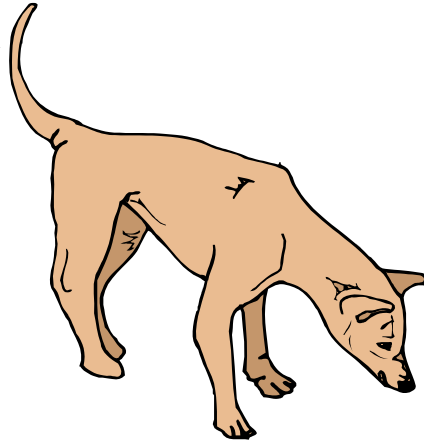
Clancy, the Mercury-Sniffing Dog

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has a unique mercury reduction program in the form of a four-year-old Labrador retriever named Clancy. Clancy is trained to find hidden sources of mercury in schools and industrial facilities and can detect vapor from as little as half a gram of mercury, the amount a fever thermometer spills when broken.

The goals of the Mercury-Free zone program are: "Reduce the risk of potential mercury exposure to students and staff in schools; prevent releases of mercury to the environment by eliminating mercury from schools; and educate students and staff about the dangers of mercury."

Mercury pollution can come from a number of sources, most commonly from broken thermometers and fluorescent light tubes. According to the MPCA, there is no longer any reason to have

mercury (other than energy-saving fluorescent lights) in schools.



Clancy has so far found relatively little mercury in the buildings he has checked. He is analyzed by a veterinarian every three months to check for mercury contamination and exposure, but there has not been any detectable exposure thus far. According to MPCA, scientists think the concentrations of mercury that Clancy will be exposed to are too low to affect him during his lifetime.

More information about the Mercury-Free Zone program and pictures of Clancy can be found at www.pca.state.mn.us/programs/mercury-free

Homeland Security Threat Monitor

After the President created the Department of Homeland Security and introduced the Homeland Security Advisory System, Greg Hewgill created a small Windows program called the Homeland Security Threat Monitor. This program uses the color-coded scale of threat levels and displays them on your computer. The monitor periodically checks the White House server and updates the terrorism threat level reported.

The program displays in the Windows system tray and is customizable to show as an orb (circle), map of the US, or a flag.

The file can be downloaded and installed from the website: <http://www.hewgill.com/threat/>.

According to the author, this piece of software is "just for fun, despite its serious theme." There is also a disclaimer that the program does not present official information and should never be used in making actual decisions with regards to a threat about terrorism.



Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed guidelines called "Interim Domestic Guidance for Management of School Students Exposed to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)." These guidelines are available on the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/exposurestudents.htm

Specific questions about SARS can be addressed by contacting the CDC SARS hotline at:

888-246-2675 (English)

888-246-2857 (Spanish)

866-874f-2646 (TTY)



West Nile Virus Info

The Oregon Department of Human Services has launched a new toll-free information line to provide access to information about the West Nile virus. The information line will have recorded topics including disease facts, symptoms, and reducing the risk of infection.

Officials advise that the most important prevention step people can take is to look around their homes and eliminate sources of standing water that can support mosquito breeding, such as clogged gutters, birdbaths and old tires.

The information line can be reached at 1-866-703-INFO.

School Security Federal Funds

In an effort to make sure that all schools are well prepared for emergencies, the Bush administration has launched an emergency planning program for schools that will provide funds to help schools create and strengthen current crisis plans.

A competitive discretionary grant program is expected to be available this Spring. A link will be available at www.ed.gov/emergencyplan/.

For more information and an in-depth article, go to <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStory.cfm?ArticleID=4299>

Website

The U.S. Department of Education has a new link on their website which will serve as an information clearinghouse for schools on terrorism and natural disaster preparedness.

The links can be accessed through www.ed.gov/emergencyplan/



Defend-in-Place or Staged Evacuation Drills

In the March 2003 issue of the *Campus Safety Journal* (www.campusjournal.com), editor Tom Nelson wrote about a new breed of drill called Defend-in-Place or Staged Evacuation Drills. He states there are at least two benefits to this type of drill. First, they are an effective practice for emergencies that require everyone remain indoors such as for severe weather. Second, they can help reduce unnecessary disruption to teaching time due to false alarms.

There are several steps to distinguish between a false alarm and a real (fire) alarm which would require evacuation. 1) Use the alarm monitor to locate the pull area and respond to check for danger. 2) An administrator announces that an alarm has been pulled



and that all people should prepare to evacuate. 3) If the area where the alarm was pulled checks out OK, an announcement is made and classes continue. 4) If there is a fire, an announcement is made and evacuation commences.

If you are interested in pursuing staged evacuation, check with your local fire office before changing your emergency plans for responding to alarms. In some areas, the fire code only allows staged evacuations for alarms at schools equipped with alarm monitoring and sprinkler systems.

At the least, these drills should be considered in addition to other drills such as lockdown, earthquake drills, and standard evacuation drills.

The Safety Zone

Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory operates The National Resource Center for Safe Schools, which provides resources to schools including free safety publications, a lending library for safety resources, and a newsletter called "The Safety Zone."

Visit their website at www.safetyzone.org to browse safety topics, download resources, request publications, and find links to other safety resources. If you do not currently receive their newsletter or have other questions, email them at safeschools@nwrel.org.

Environmental Info Database

West Linn-Wilsonville School District, in partnership with EPA Region 10, has compiled a database of information regarding rules and procedures for a number of different environmental issues. The website manual has information about asbestos, lead, PCBs, radon, and other hazards.

Thank you to Cindy Hepting and Tim Woodley from the Dept. of Operations in West Linn-Wilsonville for sharing this with other school districts!

The web site is: www.wlww.k12.or.us/operations/heptingc/crestmanual/overview.htm

Oregon School Safety Officers' Association

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Safety and Health Web Sites

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - www.cdc.gov
Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) - www.dhhs.gov
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - www.epa.gov
Nat'l Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) - www.cdc.gov/hiosh/homepage.html
Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division—www.cbs.state.or.us/external/osha
Cornell University MSDS Archive—msds.pdc.cornell.edu/msdssrch.asp
Hazardous Chemical Database—ull.chemistry.uakron.edu/erd
Cornell University's Ergonomics Web Page—ergo.human.cornell.edu
Nat'l Institute for the Prevention of Workplace Violence—www.workplaceviolence911.com
Stress Management in Work Settings—
www.cdc.gov/niosh/87-111.html
Environmental Protection Agency-Indoor
Air Quality page—www.epa.gov/iaq
American Industrial Hygiene Association—
aiha.org
American Federation of State, County and
Municipal Employees— [www.afscme.org/
health/index.html](http://www.afscme.org/health/index.html)
National Institute of Environmental Health
Sciences (NIEHS) - www.niehs.nih.gov
US Chemical Safety and Hazard Investiga-
tion Board—www.csb.gov

