

SAFETY FIRST!



Don't learn safety by accident

September 2017

Rainy River District School Board

Safety Talk—Travis Enge

Welcome back everyone!! I hope that everyone had a fun, happy and safe summer!

It has been a busy startup to school with a new Donald Young opening up and lots of work finishing off at Fort Frances High School on top of welcoming students and staff back to school. The new school year also gives us a fresh start for our Health and Safety efforts.

Last school year we finished off with a total of 7 Lost Time and 17 Medical aids. That means that 24 people had to go to the hospital to be treated for injuries they suffered at work. Of those, 11 were due to Slips Trips and Falls (STF), 7 Musculoskeletal (MS), 2 Struck By Against (SBA), 1 allergic reaction (Other) and 1 workplace violence (VI).

Last year we all did the online training for STF. This year we all did a course on ladder safety. The Joint Health and Safety Committee also had posters put up at our schools to raise awareness about STF. This was all done in order to try and reduce what is hurting us most. Most recently on Sept. 6th, we had our first trip to the hospital occur. It was due to a trip on a sidewalk and a resulting fall. As a Board, this is where our focus needs to be this year. If we can get rid of these incidents, our Health and Safety incidents will almost drop by half.

There were 40 STF incidents reported last year. As we know 11 required a trip to the hospital. So if you fall at

work, you have a 27% chance of going to the hospital. A closer look at those 40 incidents show that 21 occurred inside a school and 19 occurred outside.

From the 21 that occurred inside:

- 10 were due to something left on the floor—a marker, scarf, apple sauce, water, etc.;
- 6 were due to stairs or something you needed to step on; and
- 5 were due to working with students, zipping up a coat while crouching, tripping over a student, rushing to help a student.

For the 19 that occurred outside:

- 13 were due to snow and ice; and
- 6 were from walking around outside in general.

We are all responsible for safety and everyone plays an important part. Please read above and take it to heart:

- Know what is causing our injuries.
- Ensure you have proper footwear, know that it is slippery out, report when it is, ensure our floors do not gather things that should not be there.
- Tell people “good job” when you see them take steps to work safe (see next page).

We need to all work together to reduce this. We all deserve to go home safe at the end of the day. When something does go wrong, we should not just accept that “things just happen sometimes.” We need to look at our incidents and take steps to prevent future reoccurrences.

Have a safe September!

Don't Let Safety

Prevent **slips, trips and falls** at work

Take steps to prevent

- Wear proper footwear with good treads.
- Fix loose or curled carpets, mats and floor tiles.
- Make sure lighting is bright enough to see properly.
- Mark walkway slopes and changes of levels.

If you have a story regarding safety within the Board that you would like to share, please let us know. It could be something you learned or noticed, something that could be done better, or recognizing someone who is always a role model when it comes to safety.
Email: travis.enge@mail.rrdsb.com

Board statistics

There were a total of 171 reported incidents during the 2016-2017 school year, resulting in:

Category	Count
LT	7
MA	17
IN	145
NM	2

October is Healthy Workplace Month

The Northwestern Health Unit is inviting workplaces to participate in our 5th annual Workplace Wellness Challenge!

The goal of the challenge is to encourage workplaces in the Kenora and Rainy River Districts to make employee health and well-being a priority. Workplaces are encouraged to take part in the challenge by designating a team captain and recruiting employees to participate; the challenge will run from Monday October 2, 2017 – Friday October 27, 2017. Regional and local prizes will be given to workplaces that rank the highest based on average points earned per participant.

Registration is now open! Workplaces can register teams until Friday September 29, 2017 by going to www.nwhu.on.ca

RAINY RIVER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD INCIDENT/ACCIDENT SUMMARY



Current Year - September 1, 2017 - YTD

Severity					Total	Incident Type						
LT	MA	IN	NM	STF		SBA	SBC	MS	CA	VI	OTHER	
-	1	1	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Severity	LT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	MA	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	IN	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	NM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

Last Years Comparison - September 1, 2016 - August 31, 2017

Severity					Total	Incident Type						
LT	MA	IN	NM	STF		SBA	SBC	MS	CA	VI	OTHER	
7	17	145	2	171	40	11	8	15	90	3	4	
Severity	LT	2	-	-	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	
	MA	9	2	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	
	IN	29	9	6	8	89	2	2	-	-	-	
	NM	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	

LT	Lost Time - Time missed after day of injury.
MA	Medical Aid - Visit to hospital.
IN	Incident - First aid required or physical contact.
NM	Near Miss - No physical contact but close call.

STF	Slip, Trip, Fall
SBA	Struck By, Struck Against
SBC	Shock, Burn, Cut
MS	Musculoskeletal
CA	Child Aggression
VI	Violent Incident
OTHER	Allergic Reaction, Other

CAUGHT BEING

Safe.

We are looking for staff to send in a "Caught You Working Safely" report. Specifically, we want to know about staff:

- using a ladder to hang things in a classroom instead of a chair or desk;
- picking up anything left on the floor that someone could slip on;
- salting and sanding walkways;
- using a handrail when going up or down stairs;
- bending down on one knee instead of crouching when helping zip up a jacket;
- cleaning up a spill;
- reporting a hazard to your supervisor;
- choosing to wear closed toe footwear instead of sandals;
- or any other injury prevention related matter.

Please send in a quick email to Heather Latter providing:

- the name of the person you caught working safely.
- what they were doing that prompted you to send in an email.
- what you said to them to thank them.
- your name.

You can send in as many as you like for multiple people. And a person can also receive more than one caught you working safely.

We will be doing several draws to give away some RRDSB swag based on the entries.

"Together, we empower all students to believe in themselves, to achieve, and to dream."

This publication is available in accessible formats upon request.