



# Wyoming Department of Education

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## MEMORANDUM NO. 2014 - 001

**TO:** School District Superintendents  
School Principals

**FROM:** Bruce Hayes, ED. S., School Safety Consultant  
Support Systems and Resources Division

**DATE:** January 13, 2014

**SUBJECT:** EPA Webinar

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### SCHOOL SAFETY TRAINING AVAILABLE

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will hold a free webinar demonstrating how to handle mercury spills in schools. Please see the attached information.

The webinar will be held on Wednesday, January 22, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. MST. Registration can be made by logging on to: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/564670617>.

For questions, please feel free to contact Chris Frye, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8 (8P-SA), at [303-312-6223](tel:303-312-6223) or contact him at [frye.christopher@epa.gov](mailto:frye.christopher@epa.gov).

Thank you for all you do to keep our schools safe.

Attachment

BH:rs

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## **Sensible Steps to Healthier School Environments Webinar**

More than 1,200 school stakeholders across the country have participated in Sensible Steps webinars this year. Join your colleagues for session #9 in this special, ongoing series!

### **Designed to meet the needs of your entire school community**

- Facility Managers
- Custodial Staff
- District Administrators
- Principals
- School Nurses
- Teachers
- Support Staff
- School Board Members

## **Sensible Steps for Prevention of and Response to Mercury Spills in Schools**

**January 22, 2014      3:00 PM EST**

Elemental mercury is found in some thermometers, switches, and school science labs. Its unique properties make it appealing to handle, but mercury can make people sick. Mercury spills in schools are often caused by youth who are curious about mercury. Cleanup of large mercury spills can be costly and disruptive - resulting in unplanned early dismissals, and days to months of school closures.

Join us for this webinar to:

- Understand how to eliminate sources of mercury in your school and use safer alternatives
- Learn about the student education materials available on the “Don’t Mess with Mercury” website
- Learn step-by-step what to do when mercury spills at school, and what to communicate after a spill
- Hear firsthand “lessons learned” from a school official about a mercury spill in her school district

### **Featured presenters:**

**Sue Casteel, MS**  
**Environmental Health Scientist, Health Educator**  
**ATSDR Region 4**

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Sue Casteel graduated with a BA degree in Biology from Hendrix College and an MS degree in Occupational and Environmental Health from the University of Arkansas, Medical Sciences Campus. She has worked at public health agencies as an environmental health scientist and environmental epidemiologist for 30 years. She currently works as a Health Education and Community Involvement Coordinator for the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) in the Atlanta regional office and has worked for ATSDR for 12 years.

**Shelley R. Bengtson**  
**Environmental Specialist**  
**Omaha Public Schools**

Shelley Bengtson is currently the Environmental Specialist for the Omaha Public School District in Omaha, Nebraska. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in Chemistry and Biology, Ms. Bengtson worked several years for a private environmental consulting firm. For the past eighteen years she has been responsible for managing all environmental programs for the Omaha Public School District including asbestos and lead management, indoor air quality, hazardous waste disposal and regulatory compliance. Omaha Public School District is the largest school district in Nebraska serving more than 50,000 students. It has more than ten million square feet in 96 school buildings and ten support buildings.

**Register for this session at** <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/564670617>.

You'll receive a certificate of completion for your participation in each webinar.

- Learn more about the [Sensible Steps Webinar series](#) - ongoing sessions on specific school environmental health topics.
- [Subscribe to our mailing list](#) to receive details and registration reminders for other Sensible Steps Webinars.
- View the [Sensible Steps to Healthier School Environments](#) guide.
- Check out EPA's [Healthy School Environments](#) website

**Please share this message with your school environmental health colleagues and contacts!**