



## Member Alert Kiln Guidelines

Districts interested in including pottery as part of their art curriculum may have or be considering the addition of a kiln. Kilns must be located in an area designed for this type of equipment and equipped with safety features to reduce the fire and burn hazards. There are a number of considerations districts should include when considering the use of this equipment.

- Kilns must be situated in a properly identified space. Kilns should be in a restricted outdoor location or meet current indoor room standards. The California Building Code specifies requirements based on new or existing rooms. All kiln rooms should comply with California Building Code, Fire Code, Uniform Mechanical Code and Title 5, California Code of Regulations – School Facilities. This may include issues such as electrical supply, fire resistant materials, venting of fumes etc.
- Age and condition of the kiln. Some old kilns used asbestos in the block insulation, as it was good in reducing heat transfer. Many new kilns also have updated safety features to reduce the hazards.
- Reduce fire hazards. Remove all potentially combustible or flammable materials from the kiln area. Have a fire extinguisher rated for electrical fires available. Walls and floors should be heat resistive. It is recommended they be secured to the floor to prevent movement in the event of an earthquake.
- Kilns should be properly maintained and regularly inspected. A Kiln Inspection Checklist is attached.
- Some ceramic and sculpting material is not allowed. District should be familiar with Arts and Crafts materials prohibited by California Education Code Section 32064 which contains toxic or carcinogenic substances. There is a distinction made between grades K-6 and 7-12. The California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment provides information on art hazards as well as searchable documents that cannot be purchased for use in kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade and guidelines for Art and Craft Materials in Schools: Guidelines for Purchasing and Safe Use. [Art Hazards - OEHHA \(ca.gov\)](#) These documents/lists are updated periodically, so districts should revisit the site before ordering any materials.
- Follow Manufacturer's Operation and Safety Guidelines at all times.
- Supervision by a knowledgeable instructor at all times during the pottery making process.
- Students may receive instruction on firing of kiln. However, SISC recommends only knowledgeable instructors operate the kiln. If district includes loading, unloading and firing of kiln as part of curriculum for high school age students, parent/guardian should be informed and complete a permission slip prior to engaging in this type of activity.
- Kiln operators should use proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). This may include, but is not limited to, thermal gloves, eye and face protection, fire rated aprons, appropriate footwear. It is also recommended a sign be posted such as "hot surface" as accident prevention signage.

### **Inspection Service Contacts**

Below are some resources districts could consider for inspection and/or repair of kilns. These are only resources. The district is free to use the vendor of their choice.

- Alpha Fired Arts  
4675 Aldona Lane  
Sacramento, CA 95841  
916-484-4424
- Clay Mix  
1003 N. Abby Street  
Fresno, CA 93701  
559-485-0065