

PALMERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

IPM COORDINATOR

Integrated Pest Management Coordinator is the responsibility of the Director of Buildings & Grounds.

IPM COMMITTEE

Integrated Pest Management Committee is organized by the Director of Buildings & Grounds and includes Custodians, Maintenance Personnel and District Staff.

All employees will practice "good pest control prevention" which includes the thorough cleaning and management of all areas where pests may live. This includes, but is not limited to, cafeteria/food service areas, restrooms, locker rooms, and classrooms as well as storage areas and warehouses. All outdoor areas will also be managed with "good pest control measures."

SCHOOL PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN STATEMENT

Structural and landscape pests can pose significant problems to people, property, and the environment. Pesticides can also pose risks to people, property, and the environment. It is therefore the plan of this school district to incorporate Integrated Pest Management (IPM) procedures for control of structural and landscape pests.

Pests

Pests are populations of living organisms (animals, plants, or microorganisms) that interfere with use of the school site for human purposes. Strategies for managing pest populations will be influenced by the pest species and whether that species poses a threat to people, property, or the environment.

Pest Management

Pests will be managed to:

- Reduce any potential human health hazard or to protect against a significant threat to public safety.
- Prevent loss of or damage to school structures or property.
- Prevent pests from spreading into the community, or to plant and animal populations beyond the site.
- Enhance the quality of life for students, staff, and others.

Integrated Pest Management Procedures

IPM procedures will determine when to control pests and whether to use mechanical, physical, chemical, cultural, or biological means. IPM practitioners depend on current, comprehensive information on the pest and its environment and the best available pest control methods. Applying IPM principles prevents unacceptable levels of pest activity and damage by the most economical means and with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment.

The choice of using a pesticide will be based on a review of all other available options and a determination that these options are not acceptable or are not feasible. Cost or staffing considerations alone will not be adequate justification for use of chemical control agents, and selected non-chemical pest management methods will be implemented whenever possible to provide the desired control. It is the plan of this school district to utilize IPM principles to manage pest populations adequately. The full range of alternatives, including no action, will be considered.

Notification

Palmerton Area School District takes the responsibility to notify the school staff and students of upcoming pesticide treatments. Notices will be posted in designated areas at school and sent home to parents who wish to be informed in advance of pesticide applications.

Pesticide Storage and Purchase

Pesticide purchases will be limited to the amount authorized for use during the year. Pesticides will be stored and disposed of in accordance with the EPA-registered label directions and state regulations. Pesticides must be stored in any appropriate, secure site not accessible to students or unauthorized personnel.

Pesticide Applicators

Pesticide applicators must be educated and trained in the principles, practices, and the use of pesticides, and they must follow regulations and label precautions. All applications will be made by (or under the supervision of) a Department of Agriculture licensed applicator.

IPM For Indoor Sites

Typical Pests:

Mice, rats, cockroaches, ants, flies, wasps, hornets, yellow jackets, spiders, microorganisms, termites, carpenter ants, and other wood-destroying insects. Although beneficial as predators, wasps, hornets, yellow jackets, and spiders can be troublesome.

Entryways

(door-ways, overhead doors, windows, holes in exterior walls, openings around pipes, electrical fixtures, or ducts):

- Keep doors shut when not in use.
- Place weather stripping on doors.
- Caulk and seal openings in walls.
- Install or repair screens.
- Install air curtains.
- Keep vegetation, shrubs, and wood mulch at least 1 foot away from structures.

Classrooms and Offices

(classrooms, laboratories, administrative offices, auditoriums, gymnasiums, and hallways):

- Allow food and beverages only in designated areas.
- If indoor plants are present, keep them healthy. When small insect infestations appear, remove them manually.
- Keep areas as dry as possible by removing standing water and water-damaged or wet materials.
- In the science lab, store animal foods in tightly sealed containers and regularly clean cages. In all areas, remove dust and debris.
- Routinely clean lockers and desks.
- Frequently vacuum carpeted areas.
- If students get head lice, consult with your local health department and have their parents contact a physician. Discourage students from exchanging hats or caps at school.

Food Preparation and Serving Areas

(dining room, main kitchen, teachers' lounge, home economics kitchen, snack area, vending machines, and food storage rooms):

- Store food and waste in containers that are inaccessible to pests. Containers must have tight lids and be made of plastic, glass, or metal. Waste should be removed at the end of each day.
- Place screens on vents, windows, and floor drains to prevent cockroaches and other pests from using unscreened ducts or vents as pathways.
- Create inhospitable living conditions for pests by reducing availability of food and water – remove food debris, sweep up all crumbs, fix dripping faucets and leaks, and dry out wet areas.
- Improve cleaning practices, including promptly cleaning food preparation equipment after use and removing grease accumulation from vents, ovens, and stoves. Use caulk or paint to seal cracks and crevices.
- Capture rodents by using mechanical or glue traps. (Note: Place traps in areas inaccessible to children. Mechanical traps, including glueboards, used in rodent control must be checked daily. Dispose of killed or trapped rodents within 24 hours.)

Rooms and Areas With Extensive Plumbing

(bathrooms, rooms with sinks, locker rooms, dishwasher rooms, home economics classrooms, science laboratories, swimming pools, and greenhouses):

- Promptly repair leaks and correct other plumbing problems to deny pests access to water.
- Routinely clean floor drains, strainers, and grates. Seal pipe chases.
- Keep areas dry. Avoid conditions that allow formation of condensation. Areas that never dry out are conducive to molds and fungi. Increasing ventilation may be necessary.
- Store paper products or cardboard boxes away from moist areas and direct contact with the floor or the walls. This practice also allows for ease in inspection.

Maintenance Areas

(boiler room, mechanical room, janitorial-housekeeping areas, and pipechases):

- After use, promptly clean mops and mop buckets; dry mop buckets and hang mops vertically on rack above floor drain.
- Allow eating only in designated eating areas.
- Clean trash cans regularly, use plastic liners in trashcans, and use secure lids.

- Keep areas clean and as dry as possible, and remove debris.

IPM For Outdoor Sites

Typical Pests:

Mice and rats.

Turf pests--broad-leaf and grassy weeds, insects such as beetle grubs or sod webworms, diseases such as brown patch, and vertebrates such as moles. Ornamental plant pests--plant diseases, and insects such as thrips, aphids, Japanese beetles, and bag worms.

Playgrounds, Parking Lots, Athletic Fields, Loading Docks, and Refuse Dumpsters:

- Regularly clean trash containers and gutters and remove all waste, especially food and paper debris.
- Secure lids on trash containers.
- Repair cracks in pavement and sidewalks.
- Provide adequate drainage away from the structure and on the grounds.

Turf

(lawns, athletic fields, and playgrounds);

- Maintain healthy turf by selecting a mixture of turf types (certified seed, sod, or plugs) best adapted for the area.
- Raise mowing height for turf to enhance its competition with weeds; adjust cutting height of mower, depending on the grass type; sharpen mower blades; and vary mowing patterns to help reduce soil compaction.
- Water turf infrequently but sufficiently during early morning hours to let turf dry out before nightfall; let soil dry slightly between waterings.
- Provide good drainage, and periodically inspect turf for evidence of pests or diseases.
- Have the soil tested every two years to determine pH and fertilizer requirements.
- Use a dethatcher to remove thatch in early spring when the lawns can recover and when overseeding operations are likely to be more successful.
- Time fertilizer application appropriately because excessive fertilizer can cause additional problems, including weed and disease outbreaks. Apply lime if necessary. Use aeration to place soil on top of thatch so that microbes from soil can decompose thatch.
- Seed over existing turf in fall or early spring.

Ornamental Shrubs and Trees:

- Apply fertilizer and nutrients to annuals and perennials during active growth and to shrubs and trees during dormant season or early in the growing season.
- If using a fertilizer, use the correct one at the suitable time, water properly, and reduce compaction.
- Prune branches to improve plants and prevent access by pests to structures.
- Use the appropriate pest-resistant variety, and properly prune for growth and structure.
- Correctly identify the pest in question. When in doubt, send several specimens to the Cooperative Extension Service. Once the pest is identified, recommendations can be made.

Applying Pesticides

Many different kinds of pesticides are currently available for use against urban and structural pests. An appropriate application uses the least toxic and most effective and efficient technique and material. Due to their potentially toxic nature, these materials will be applied under the direction of a qualified applicator in a manner to ensure maximum efficiency, with minimal hazard. Pesticides will be applied only when occupants are not present in areas where they may be exposed to materials applied.

The following general recommendations will minimize exposure to people and other non-target species when the application of pesticides is being considered:

- Read and follow all label instructions.
- Choose a pesticide that is labeled for the specific site, intended for the pest you are trying to control, and as target specific as possible, rather than broad spectrum.
- Use a spot-treatment method of application when pesticide treatments are required. Treat only the obviously infested plants in an area.
- Place all rodenticides either in locations not accessible to children and non-target species or in tamper-resistant bait boxes. Outdoors, place bait inside the entrance of an active rodent burrow, and then collapse the burrow entrance over the bait to prevent non-target species' access. Securely lock or fasten shut the lids of all bait boxes. Place bait in the baffle-protected feeding chamber of the box. Never place bait in the runway of the box.
- Apply only when occupants are not present or in areas where they will not be exposed to the material applied. Note any re-entry time limits listed on the label, and be aware that some residues can remain long after application.
- Use proper protective clothing or equipment when applying pesticides.
- Properly ventilate areas after pesticide application.
- Notify students, staff, and interested parents of upcoming pesticide applications. Pay particular attention to those individuals that may be at higher risk.

POSTING AND NOTIFICATION

Written notification to parents must be made annually or at the time a new student is registered for school and must state that the school periodically applies pesticides indoors and on school grounds, and that information on the pesticides is available to parents. Principals are responsible to identify any "at-risk" students and shall direct postings home to parents as requested by the parent or legal guardian. Principals are responsible to see that every student is provided with the IPM parent notification letter.

If a pesticide must be used in the school building, the administrator is required to post the notice in writing at the school at least 3 days before each planned treatment. The notice must include the day of treatment and the pesticide used.

The administrator is required to post the notice in a common access area visible to all occupants. Building principals shall advise any "at-risk" students of the planned pesticide activity.

The posting requirement for outdoor treatments is the same. Pesticide applications are restricted to only periods during which students are not expected to use the building (area) for normal academic instruction or for organized extra-curricular activities for at least 7 hours following the application. Pesticides cannot be applied while students are present in the building (area) for instruction or extra-curricular activities. Outdoor pesticide treatments may be applied only during periods in which students are not expected to use the treated portion of the grounds within 7 hours.

HB 988 and Act 36 provides for emergency pesticide applications, but only in the event of an immediate threat to the health and safety of students.

Operations-IPM:IntegPestMgmtProg
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