

## **Pest Management in School Facilities and on School Grounds**

The Board recognizes that structural and landscape pests can pose significant problems for people and Center property, but that use of some pesticides may also pose health and safety risks to people, property and the environment. It is therefore the policy of Waldo County Technical Center to incorporate Integrated Pest Management (IPM) principles and procedures for the control of structural and landscape pests.

For the purpose of this policy, “pests” are populations of living organisms (animals, plants or microorganisms) that interfere with use of school facilities and grounds. “Pesticide” is defined as any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling or mitigating any pests and any substance or mixture of substances intended for use as a plant regulator, defoliant or desiccant.

The objective of the IPM program is to provide effective pest control, while minimizing pesticide use. The goals of the IPM program include managing pests to reduce any potential hazards to human health; preventing loss or damage to school structures or property; preventing pests from spreading beyond the site of infestation to other school property; and enhancing the quality of life for students, staff and others. The establishment of a Pest Management Plan will address these goals.

The Superintendent and/or designee shall develop and implement a Pest Management Plan consistent with the following IPM principles and procedures:

A. Appointment of an IPM Coordinator

The Director/designee will appoint an IPM Coordinator for the Center. The IPM Coordinator will be the primary contact for pest control matters and will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the IPM plan, including making pest control decisions. The IPM Coordinator’s responsibilities include:

1. Recording and monitoring data and pest sightings by school staff and students;
2. Meeting with pesticide applicators to share information about pest problems in school buildings and on school grounds;
3. Recording and ensuring that maintenance and sanitation recommendations are carried out where feasible;
4. Ensuring that any pesticide use is done according to the Center’s Pest Management Plan;
5. Evaluating the Center’s progress in implementing the IPM plan;

6. Coordinating notification of parents and staff of pesticide applications according to the Center's notification procedure; and
7. Recording all pesticides used by either a professional applicator or school staff as a means to track compliance with the SAD 3's IPM policy.

B. Identification of Specific Pest Thresholds

Routine inspection and accurate identification of pests are needed to recognize potential problems and determine when action should be taken. An "action threshold" should be determined by the IPM Coordinator, reflecting the pest control objective for each site. As pest management objectives will differ from site to site (e.g. maintaining healthy turf and specific playing surfaces on athletic fields, carpenter ant control in buildings, maintenance of ornamental plants), differences should be considered before setting an action threshold.

C. Pesticide Applicators

Any person who applies pesticides in school buildings or on school grounds must possess a Maine pesticide applicator's license and should be trained in the principles and practices of IPM. SAD 3's IPM Coordinator must approve all pesticide use. Applicators must follow state regulations and label precautions and must comply with the IPM policy and pest management plan.

[Note: School personnel do not need to be licensed to use disinfectants for normal or routine cleaning practices, to apply ready-to-use insecticides for emergency stinging insect control, or for use of repellants for personal protection. However, school personnel do need to be licensed if they will be using any other pesticides in school facilities or on school grounds.]

D. Selection, Use and Storage of Pesticides

Pesticides should be used only when needed. Non-chemical pest management methods will be implemented whenever possible to provide the desired control. The choice of using a pesticide will be based on a review of other available options (sanitation, exclusion, mechanical means, trapping, biological control) and a determination that these options have not worked or are not feasible. When it has been determined that a pesticide must be used to achieve pest management goals, the least hazardous effective pesticide should be selected.

Decisions concerning the particular pesticide to be used and the timing of pesticide application should take into consideration the use of the buildings or grounds to be treated.

Pesticide purchases should be limited to the amount expected to be used for a specific application or during the year. Pesticides will be stored and disposed of in accordance with label directions and state and federal regulations. *Any chemicals diluted and placed in secondary containers must be labeled in accordance with Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) standards.* Pesticides must be stored in an appropriate, secured location not accessible to students or unauthorized personnel. *Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) information must be maintained and updated for all pesticides used by the Region.*

E. Notification of Students, Staff and Parents of Use of Pesticides

Within the first two weeks of every school year a notice will be provided to school staff, students, and parents or legal guardians briefly advising them that this pest management policy exists, that a report of prior pesticide applications and information about the pesticides used and a copy of the Pesticides in Schools regulation (CMR 01-026 Chapter 27) are available, and where the policy, pesticide records and information, and a copy of the regulation is available for review. The notice will also indicate that pesticides may be used both indoors and outdoors as needed and that applications will be noticed in accordance with the Board of Pesticides Control's Chapter 27: Standards for Pesticide Application and Public Notification in Schools. *Specifically, the attached Appendix A will be handed out to all staff and sent home with students for parents/legal guardians at least five (5) days prior to planned application.*

F. Record keeping

In order to keep track of pesticide use and locate problem areas in buildings and on school grounds, records of pesticide use will be maintained at each school site for two years. Records are to be completed on the day the pesticide is applied. Pest surveillance records should be maintained to verify the need for pesticide treatments.

Legal Reference: 22 MRSA §§ 1471-A-1471-X

First Reading: January 15, 2004

Second Reading: February 12, 2004

Adopted: February 12, 2004

Appendix A

Notice of Planned Pesticide Application

The following notice is provided in compliance with State regulations establishing standards for pesticide applications and notifications in schools.

(Product name), EPA registration number (00000), containing (chemical name) will be applied by (name of pest control company or licensed applicator) to (area in building or on school property where pesticide will be applied) during (approximate time of day and date of application) for the purpose of controlling (type of pest).

For additional information regarding this application, you may contact

This application is consistent with WCTC's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. The objective of the IPM program is to provide effective pest control while minimizing pesticide use. The goals of the IPM program include managing pests to reduce any potential hazards to human health; preventing loss or damage to school structures or property; preventing pests from spreading beyond the site of infestation to other school property; and enhancing the quality of life of students, staff and others.

Legal Reference: Ch. 7 § 4, Department of Agriculture Board of Pesticides Control Rule  
(Standards for Pesticide Applications and Public Notification in Schools)