

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

Background

The maintenance of a safe, clean and healthy environment for students, staff and the community is essential to education and to the proper operation of the Mt. Lebanon School District. Structural and landscape pests can pose risks to human health, property and environment. The District also recognizes that pesticides may pose risks to human health and the environment, with special risks to children who may be more vulnerable than adults to certain chemicals in their environment. The Mt. Lebanon School District recognizes its responsibility to support activities which contribute to a planned conservation and preservation of a healthy lifestyle. Accordingly, the District has adopted an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM), with principles and procedures that incorporate safe, low risk methods of controlling pest problems while protecting people, the environment and property. This policy is enacted pursuant to Sections 772.1 and 772.2 of the Public School Code of 1949, as amended, 24 P.S. §§ 7-772.1 and 7-772.2.

Objective

The District shall implement and utilize an IPM Plan to manage structural and landscape pests and the toxic chemicals used for their control in order to alleviate pest problems with the least possible hazard to people, property and the environment. The goal of the IPM Plan is to decrease the amount of pesticide used when managing pests. The IPM Plan will manage pests through sanitation, exclusion, and nonchemical devices rather than depending exclusively on pesticides. In addition, the District will utilize least toxic chemicals when non-toxic methods are not sufficient or effective to reduce pests to an acceptable level.

Definitions

“Pest” is an insect, rodent, nematode, fungus, weed or other form of terrestrial or aquatic plant or animal life or virus, bacteria or other microorganism, except viruses, bacteria or other microorganisms on or in living man or other living animals, declared to be a pest under section 25(c)(1) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (61 Stat. 163, 7 U.S.C. § 136w).

“Pesticide” is a substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling or mitigating a pest and a substance or mixture of substances intended for use as a plant regulator, defoliant or desiccant.

"Integrated Pest Management" ("IPM") is the coordinated use of pest and environmental information to design and implement pest control methods that are economically, environmentally and socially sound. IPM promotes prevention over remediation and it advocates the integration of at least two (2) or more strategies to achieve long-term solutions.

"Integrated Pest Management Plan" ("IPM Plan") is a plan that establishes a sustainable approach to managing pests by combining biological, cultural, physical and chemical tools in a way that minimizes economic, health and environmental risks. The term shall include Principles and Procedures adopted by the District.

Policy

The District will employ Integrated Pest Management procedures to provide necessary pest control. The District's IPM Plan shall consist of a cycle of inspecting, identifying, monitoring, evaluating, and choosing the appropriate method of control. Routine inspection and accurate identification of pests will be conducted to ensure that control methods will be effective. Monitoring includes inspecting areas for pest evidence, entry points, food, water and harborage sites and estimating pest population levels. Habitat modifications, including exclusion, repair and sanitation efforts will all be employed to reduce pest populations.

The District's IPM Plan shall employ preventative, non-toxic and least toxic measures that manage pests to:

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

The IPM Plan will determine when to control pests and whether to use mechanical, physical, chemical, cultural, or biological means. The goal of IPM is to deliver effective pest control while at the same time reducing the volume and toxicity of pesticides used. Applying IPM principles prevents unacceptable levels of pest activity and damage in an economical manner that is safe for people, property, and the environment. Non-chemical pest management methods will be implemented whenever practical, to provide the desired control. The full range of alternatives, including no action, will be considered.

Strategies for managing pest populations will be influenced by whether and/or the degree to which the pest poses a threat to people, human health, property and/or the environment as well as the seriousness and immediacy of such threat. The choice to use a toxic pesticide will be based upon a review of all other available options and a determination that these options have not worked or are infeasible. When it is determined that a toxic pesticide must be used to obtain adequate control, the least hazardous effective materials will be used and the District shall employ formulations and treatment techniques that minimize the amount of pesticide used and potential exposure of people and the environment.

IPM Coordinator - The District shall designate an IPM coordinator who shall serve as the District's contact person for inquiries regarding the District's pest control procedures and will be responsible for coordinating all District pest control and management.

Use of Toxic Pesticides - Toxic pesticides shall not be used in school buildings or on school grounds without prior Board approval, except in an emergency. Should the District's IPM Coordinator determine that preventative or non-toxic methods are ineffective to control a pest problem, and that a toxic pesticide must be used to reduce a pest to a manageable and/or acceptable level, the IPM coordinator shall prepare a report to the District Superintendent and the Board. This report shall include identification of the pest to be controlled and/or eliminated, a description of the specific nature of the pest problem, a discussion of the preventative and/or non-toxic interventions previously employed to control the pest, and a description of the recommended course of treatment to control the pest. The recommended course of treatment shall include an identification and/or description of the chemical(s) to be applied and information pertaining to the chemical(s), including but not limited to, the Material Safety Data Sheet(s), product label(s), and EPA Re-registration Eligibility Decision(s). The Superintendent or IPM Coordinator shall present the report and recommendation to the Board prior to its next advertised public meeting. A majority of the Board members present at such meeting shall be required to approve the IPM Coordinator's recommendation and report. Should the Board approve an application of pesticides, such application shall be in compliance with the District's principles and procedures.

Pesticides may be applied in school buildings and/or on school grounds without prior Board approval only in emergency situations where a delay until the next public Board meeting would involve a threat of imminent illness or injury to people or damage to District buildings, structures or property. Such emergency circumstances may include, , the presence of wasps, hornets or other stinging or poisonous insects in school buildings or on school grounds, infestation of insects or rodents, that pose a health hazard or may potentially spread illness, damage to District buildings, structures or property, or an infestation of molds, fungi or other organisms which poses a threat of disease or illness. In the event that the District IPM Coordinator determines that an emergency application is necessary, such application shall be conducted in compliance with the District's principles and procedures. The IPM Coordinator or Superintendent shall report such emergency pesticide application to the Board.

Notice - When pesticide applications are scheduled in school buildings and on school grounds, the District shall provide notification in accordance with law, including:

1. Posting a pest control sign in an appropriate area;
2. Providing the pest control information sheet to all individuals working in the school building; and

3. Providing required notice to all parents and guardians of students or to a list of parents and guardians who have requested notification of individual applications of pesticides.

Where pests pose an immediate threat to the health and safety of students or employees, the District may authorize an emergency pesticide application and shall notify by telephone any parent and guardian who has requested such notification.

The District shall annually advise parents or guardians of their right to request notification of emergency pesticide use and shall explain procedures for requesting such notification.

Compliance with Law - In the event of enactment of any applicable statute, regulation or ordinance that is more stringent than any element of this Policy, the IPM Plan, then the more stringent provision shall supersede any inconsistent provision of this Policy or the IPM Plan.

Administration Responsibility

It shall be the responsibility of the Administration to:

1. Appoint a District IPM Coordinator;
2. Develop and adopt an IPM Plan necessary to implement this Policy;
3. Inform students, parents, PTA's and members of the public about the District's Integrated Pest Management Policy and IPM Plan;
4. Inform all District employees, staff and contractors performing work on school grounds about the District's Integrated Pest Management Policy and IPM Plan;
and
5. When required by law, maintain detailed records of all chemical pest control treatments for at least three (3) years.

Communication

This Policy shall be communicated to all District employees, staff, contractors performing work on school grounds, students, parents, PTA's and shall be available to members of the public upon request.

Adopted June 19, 2000
Revised April 16, 2018