BELFAST CENTRAL SCHOOL
INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM) PLAN

Revised 05/07/08

Statement of Purpose

This plan has been developed to ensure the health and safety of students, teachers, staff, administration and all others using the district's buildings and grounds, while at the same time controlling pest populations in an effective and environmentally-sound manner.

This plan will rely on sanitation, habitat modification, monitoring and the use of non-toxic and least-toxic products and techniques to control pests, rather than the use of potentially-dangerous chemical pesticides. This plan recognizes that IPM is a collaborative effort involving the administration, teachers, students, facilities staff and pest control operators, among others, and that the gathering and sharing of information is critical to ensuring the success of this IPM initiative.

Definition

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is the coordinated use of physical, biological and cultural controls and least-toxic pest control products and techniques to prevent unacceptable levels of pest damage by the most economical means with the least possible hazard to people, property and the environment.
Integrated Pest Management involves the monitoring of pest populations, establishment of injury levels, modification of habitats (to eliminate sources of food, water, harborage and entry), utilization of least-toxic controls, keeping of records and evaluation of performance on an ongoing basis.

Structural IPM Guidelines

Structural pests that commonly inhabit or invade school buildings include cockroaches, ants, rodents, termites and stinging insects. Specific IPM monitoring and control products and techniques have been developed for each type of pest, and will be utilized. However, the following strategies will also be implemented to minimize structural pest problems in general.

Monitoring

Understanding what kind of pests are present, where they are, and how big their populations are is essential for successfully eliminating problems. Treatments will not be applied unless monitoring indicates a pest problem in excess of specified injury levels.

Structural pests will be monitored via direct inspection, sticky traps, pheromone baits, tracking powder, mechanical traps and glueboards as necessary. Captured pests will be recorded and disposed of on a daily basis.

Injury Levels

Also known as "tolerance" or "threshold" levels, injury levels determine the point at which treatment is necessary. Appropriate injury levels will be set, and may take into consideration economic losses (ex: amount of foodstuffs contaminated by pantry pests), health risks (ex: occurrence of disease-bearing pests), aesthetic evaluations (ex: temporary presence of ants), nuisance problems (ex: stinging insects) and pest visibility. It is neither possible, nor desirable to completely exterminate every pest and potential pest from every population on school property.

Habitat Modification

In every structural environment the food, water, harborage and entry points that attract and sustain pest populations will be eliminated. Proper sanitation, which will involve a coordinated effort by all building occupants, is absolutely essential. Sanitation will be conducted effectively and routinely, will extend to all areas of the school facility, and will be reviewed on an ongoing basis to improve performance and correct oversights.

The following is a general guide to habitat modifications that will be assessed and implemented in key areas throughout the school facility. Appropriate pest monitoring will also be conducted in each area.

1. **Entryways** (including doorways, overhead doors, windows, wall cracks and crevices, electrical fixtures, pipe spaces, drains, ducts and loading docks)

    - make sure doors are not propped or left open
    - install weather-stripping and door sweeps
    - caulk wall cracks and crevices
    - install screens in doors and windows and keep them in good repair
    - keep shrubs, grass and mulches at least one foot away from buildings
    - eliminate food waste and debris from loading docks

2. **Classrooms and Offices** (including classrooms, laboratories, libraries, administration offices, auditoriums, gymnasiums, hallways and stairways)

    - allow food and beverages in designated areas only
    - clean dishes, coffee machines, microwave and toaster ovens, and utensils thoroughly on regular basis
    - store condiments and food (including craft supplies and pet food) in tightly sealed containers
    - prohibit the extended storage of food in desks and lockers
    - inspect plants and animals (ex: science projects, houseplants) regularly for pest problems
    - vacuum and remove trash on a daily basis

3. **Food Preparation and Serving Areas** (including cafeteria, kitchen, teacher's lounge, home economics room, snack area, vending machines, food storage areas and walk-in coolers)

    - store food, beverages and food wastes in tightly sealed, lidded containers
    - remove food waste daily
    - screen vents, windows and floor drains
    - keep area clean and dry by sweeping and mopping, quickly disposing of food waste, removing clutter, and fixing leaky pipes and faucets
    - clean grease traps regularly
    - caulk cracks and crevices
    - clean behind and underneath appliances, coolers, vending machines and waste disposal units

4. **Plumbing and Maintenance Areas** (including bathrooms, sinks, utility rooms, locker rooms, dish rooms, laboratories, art studios, home economics rooms, pool areas, boiler room, mechanical room, mop room and pipe chases)

    - repair leaks and other plumbing problems immediately to eliminate water sources
    - clean floor drains routinely
    - clean mops and buckets promptly, dry buckets and hang mops off of floor above drain
    - seal pipe chases
    - eliminate piles of clutter
    - remove trash regularly

5. **Waste Disposal and Recycling Areas** (including garbage cans, dumpsters, recycling bins and outdoor garbage storage areas)

    - secure dumpsters with heavy, tight-fitting lids
    - clean the outsides of dumpsters regularly
    - store food wastes securely
    - clean in, under and around recycling bins routinely
    - remove recyclables frequently
    - empty garbage cans daily

Least-Toxic Controls

Controls will be instituted only when a pest has exceeded designated injury levels, as determined through monitoring. Every effort be made to modify the habitat to the point where it neither invites nor sustains injurious pest populations, thus minimizing the need for pest controls.

Biological and physical controls will be instituted prior to the use of chemical controls. Only chemical controls least-toxic to humans, non-target species and the environment will be acceptable. Organophosphate and carbamate pesticides will not be employed for pest control. All choices for appropriate controls are based on generally accepted industry standards as oulined in *Integrated Pest Management Resources for Schools.*

Biological controls include the appropriate conservation of pests' natural predators, parasites and diseases, and the judicious augmentation of these species via predator releases, applications of parasites, and inoculations of diseases.

Physical controls include:

- desiccants (diatomaceous earth, silica aerogel)
- barriers (sticky, band, water)
- traps (mechanical, glueboard, sticky)
- environmental manipulation (of temperature, humidity or light)
- electric currents (electrogun, electric fences and traps)
- manual removal (nets, lice combs).

Communication and Feedback

Communication with and feedback from building occupants is essential to proper control of pests. All employees will be notified that an IPM program has been established and will also be notified of the district's IPM contact person and basic hygiene practices to minimize pests.

At times of possible pest infiltration and subsequent monitoring, employees will be notified of any monitoring or controls as well as specific hygiene practices to reduce pest harborage.

Training

All district employees who may be required to institute monitoring or control measures as outlined in this plan will be certified and trained according to NYS DEC licensing requirements for Commercial Pesticide Applicators in appropriate categories for school buildings and grounds.

Responsibilities

The Superintendent of Buildings/Grounds will oversee all aspects of this plan and will be ultimately responsible for its implementation. This person will also be responsible for ensuring the proper use, storage, and documentation of any pesticides used in addition to verification of licensing of any individuals employed in pest control efforts.

The Board of Education/District Administration/ School Administration recognizes the potentially serious risks inherent in using chemical pesticides in the school environment, and therefore authorizes the implementation of a comprehensive Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program for all school buildings and grounds.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) will be defined as the coordinated use of physical, biological and cultural controls and least-toxic pest control products and techniques to prevent unacceptable levels of pest damage by the most economical means with the least possible hazard to people, property and the environment.

Integrated Pest Management will be understood to involve the monitoring of pest populations, establishment of injury levels, modification of habitats (to eliminate sources of food, water, harborage and entry), utilization of least-toxic controls, keeping of records and evaluation of performance on an ongoing basis.

A pesticide will be defined as any insecticide, rodenticide, herbicide, acaricide, algicide, slimicide, fungicide, disinfectant or other chemical utilized to kill or repel a pest.

The District/School is specifically charged with:

- establishing, or recognizing an existing IPM Committee (which will include but not be limited to the school facility manager, superintendent, science teacher, PTA or PTO representative, school nurse, head custodian, head groundskeeper, entomologist, teacher's union representative, and student environmental or science club president);
- implementing, overseeing and reviewing a comprehensive IPM program as specified by the IPM Committee's Plan (either directly, or via the auspices of the IPM Committee);
- eliminating all routine pesticide spraying and fogging;
- eliminating the use of all organophosphate and carbamate pesticides;
- utilizing the least-toxic pest control products and techniques available;
- posting notices in advance of any pesticide application;
- maintaining detailed records of all pest control procedures;
- and prohibiting the use of any chemical pesticide for purely aesthetic purposes.

Addendums To IPM Plan

Sample Forms and Letters For Notification Requirements

Yearly Notification (Must be done within 10 days of first full day. May be accomplished through newsletter.)

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As part of the Belfast School District's pest management program, pesticides are occasionally applied. You have the right to be informed prior to any pesticide application made to the school grounds and buildings. In certain emergencies, pesticides may be applied without prior notice, but you will be provided notice following any such application. If you need prior notification, please complete the information below and submit to:

Contact:_____
Belfast Central School
Address:_____
_____

Call: (585) 365-2646 if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Pesticide Use Prior Notification Request

(Please Print)

Parent/Guardian Name: _____
Child's Name: _____ School _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ Zip Code _____
Telephone Numbers: Daytime _____ Evening _____

Please Check One:
____ I wish to be notified prior to a scheduled pesticide treatment inside of the building.
____ I wish to be notified prior to a scheduled pesticide treatment on the grounds of the school.
____ Both of the above.
_____ Signature, Date

48 hour notification form. (48 hours before any application not exempted by law.)

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As part of the Belfast School District's pest management program, pesticides are occasionally applied. You have previously requested 48 hour notification prior to any pesticide application made to the school grounds or buildings. Please contact _____ at (585) 365-2646 for any questions regarding this matter.

The following pest infiltration has been identified:

_____ Pest Name

_____ Location Identified

_____ Name of Pesticide To Be Applied

_____ Planned Date and Time of Application