

## **There is no "I" in IPM; it's all about TEAM.**

By: Janet Hurley

Integrated pest management (IPM) is like football. In football, it takes a team to win or lose a game. No single person is the breaking point. Successful IPM requires people management and teamwork. A solid IPM program requires several groups of people to work in conjunction with one and another, and to practice the basic principal that no one person is responsible for everything. Taking ownership of one's actions and helping others is a basic principle of advanced society. IPM and the indoor air quality (IAQ) program use these principles and embrace the famous Ben Franklin quote, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."



Administrators may not understand the varied roles of an IPM/IAQ program. They might believe that they have an effective IPM program because there is a designated IPM Coordinator, a licensed pesticide applicator, and inspections. However, this philosophy will fail in the end because others within the district will not realize that they have an active role in maintaining their school building. School buildings take a lot of abuse from faculty, staff, and students. Large numbers of people moving from one place to another can carry pests with them. Reminding all personnel not to bring insect killer to school is only one small item in the IPM program.

School facilities are like children. They need constant attention and upkeep, yearly physicals in the form of inspections and proper training of employees to keep them running efficiently. While appointing a good IPM Coordinator is critical, the way in which the other players within the district interact and support the Coordinator is crucial as well. Super humans are for the comics and movies. In reality most of us are wearing several hats and managing several areas. Communication is essential to be successful. A work order system is good to have, but it does not replace an occasional conversation between facilities and principals, teachers, and staff.

Keep reading here <http://schoolipm.tamu.edu/2015/09/30/school-pest-news-volume-15-issue-9-september-2015/>

## **REGULATION ALERT REGULATION ALERT REGULATION ALERT**

As you are aware, the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) oversees the school IPM regulations as well as pesticide applications. On, September 18, 2015, TDA placed several proposed changes to the structural pest control rules in the Texas Register. All new rules must go through the process of being posted to the Register and then allow 30 days for public comment. You may either go to

<http://www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/archive/September182015/index.html>

***This is your only opportunity to make comments, both positive and negative, on the Regulations, which will govern the pest control industry and school IPM for the next several years under TDA. Please make this a priority.***

Written comments on the proposal may be submitted to Stephen Pahl, Administrator for Consumer Protection, Texas Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 12847, Austin, Texas 78711 or by email [toStephen.Pahl@TexasAgriculture.gov](mailto:toStephen.Pahl@TexasAgriculture.gov) . Written comments must be received no later than 30 days from the date of publication of the proposed amendments in the *Texas Register*, which means your response must be received by **October 18, 2015** if you want to be heard.

You can read the full story on our website at

<http://schoolipm.tamu.edu/2015/09/30/school-pest-news-volume-15-issue-9-september-2015/>

Below is information on school IPM

**DIVISION 7. INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS 4 TAC**

**§§7.201 - 7.205** – This will be a brand new section for school IPM, rather than falling under the compliance and enforcement section of the structural pest control rules, school IPM will have its own section under the TAC code. The TX school IPM rules will remain the same, except there are a couple of changes that many IPM coordinators will be happy to see.

**§7.202.Responsibilities of the IPM Coordinator.** You will notice in this section, what is considered continuing education credit for IPM coordinators is clearly spelled out, you will also notice if you are licensed applicator and the coordinator that you can obtain dual credits for both IPM and your license.

*The IPM Coordinator(s) shall be responsible for implementation of the school district IPM Program. In addition, the IPM Coordinator(s) shall:*

*(1) successfully complete a Department-approved IPM Coordinator training course within six months of appointment;*

*(2) obtain at least six hours of Department-approved IPM continuing education units (CEU) every three years, beginning the effective date of this rule or the date of designation, whichever is later. The three-year period will begin from the date the IPM Coordinator receives initial training after being appointed by the superintendent, or if currently designated and trained as the IPM Coordinator, when this rule revision goes into effect. No approved course may be repeated for credit within the same three-year period. One of the six CEUs must be related to laws and regulations specific to IPM programs in schools. IPM Coordinators may satisfy the CEU requirements through one or more of the following methods:*

*(A) Completing a Department approved training course for IPM Coordinators;*

*(B) Completing courses that have been approved in the pest, lawn and ornamental, weed control or general IPM category; or*

*(C) By submitting information for a course completed, that was not previously approved by the Department, for the evaluation of credit. The information must include the name of the instructor(s), verification of attendance at the course, length of time of the course stated in hours and minutes, a detailed course outline indicating the scope of the course and learning objectives, and the number of continuing education units requested. Additionally, the IPM Coordinator must demonstrate that the course content is appropriate and pertinent to the use of pesticides and the implementation of IPM strategies at school buildings and other school district facilities.*

*(3) If the IPM Coordinator is also a licensed applicator, the CEUs obtained for the license under §7.134 of this title (relating to Continuing Education Requirements for Certified Applicators) will count towards the six hours of IPM CEUs.*

*(4) Following the three-year effective CEU period, IPM Coordinators must maintain certificates of completion for one additional calendar year (period through December 31). The certificates are subject to inspection by the Department at any time upon request.*

**§7.204. Pesticide Use in School Districts.** For this section the wording is almost the same as it was prior to the moving to the new section. However, under item four (4) you will notice one major change – the allowance of the IPM Coordinator to be able to train an unlicensed employee to place out monitoring devices. For years we have been encouraging TDA to implement this change to help schools out, as you can see they were listening.

*(4) The use of non-pesticide control measures, non-pesticide monitoring tools and mechanical devices, such as glue boards and traps as permitted in accordance with Division 7 of this subchapter (relating to Integrated Pest Management Program for School Districts), are exempt from posting requirements. The use of non-pesticide tools and devices by unlicensed school district personnel, for monitoring purposes, shall be permitted. Monitoring by unlicensed school district personnel shall be done only as directed, under the supervision of the IPM Coordinator.*

As stated at the beginning of this narrative if you would like to see the full set of rules you can visit the Texas Register website at

<http://www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/archive/September182015/Proposed%20Rules/4.AGRICULTURE.html#4>

What do you need to do, tell TDA if you are happy or not. For many IPM coordinators you have been patiently waiting for the day when you could legally train someone to put out a monitoring device, tell TDA thank you. If you don't like what you see, tell TDA as well, your governmental agencies are only as good as the public input they receive. Remember we can all participate if we just take a few minutes out of busy day to let our government leaders know how we feel.