Integrated Pest Management

Purpose:

The District shall utilize Integrated Pest Management (IPM) procedures 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 District shall use pesticides only after consideration of the full range of alternatives, based on analysis of environmental effects, safety, effectiveness and costs.

As part of the utilization of IPM procedures, the District shall institute an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP) for District buildings and grounds that complies with policies and regulations promulgated by the Department of Agriculture.

Definitions:

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is the managed use of pest control alternatives, including cultural, mechanical, biological, and chemical, to most effectively prevent or reduce to acceptable levels damage caused by pests.

Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP) 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 environment risks.

Implementation:

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible to implement integrated pest management procedures, to adopt an integrated pest management plan, and to coordinate communications between the District and the approved contractor.

The Superintendent shall designate an employee to serve as IPM coordinator for the District. Appropriate personnel involved in making recommendations relative to pest management shall participate in periodic and updated training.

Integrated Pest Management strategies may include education, exclusion, sanitation, maintenance, site appropriate pesticides, and biological and mechanical controls.

An IPM decision shall consist of the following five (5) steps:

1. Identify pest species
2. Estimate pest populations and compare them to established action thresholds
3. Select the appropriate management tactics based on current on site information
4. Assess effectiveness of pest management, and

5. Maintain accurate and appropriate records

Communication:

The District shall notify parents and guardians of District students about planned and emergency applications of pesticides in school buildings or school grounds. Parents and guardians of District students will be advised annually of the procedures to follow to request prior notification of pesticide applications. The Superintendent or designee will ensure that annually such procedures are communicated to parents and guardians of District students.

Notification of Planned Applications:

When pesticide applications are planned and 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 visible 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 applications of pesticides

Notification of Emergency Applications:

When pests pose an immediate threat to the health and safety of student or employees, the District may authorize an emergency pesticide application and shall notify by telephone or by message on an answering machine any parent and guardian who has requested such notification. The Superintendent or designee will promulgate additional procedures for notification of emergency pesticide applications

Records:

The District shall maintain detailed records of all chemical pest control treatments for at least three (3) years. Information regarding pest management activities shall be available to the public at the District's administrative office.