

School Pest Management

Structural and landscape pests can pose significant problems to people, property and the environment. Pesticides can also pose risks to people, (especially young students) property and the environment. It is therefore the policy of the Olympia School District to incorporate Integrated Pest Management (IPM) procedures for prevention and control of structural and landscape pests.

Pests

Pests are populations of living organisms (animals, plants or microorganisms) that interfere with use of the school site for human purposes. Strategies for managing pest populations will be influenced by the pest species and whether that species poses a threat to people, property or the environment.

Pest Management

Approved pest management plans should be developed for the site and should include any proposed pest management measures.

Pests will be managed to:

- Reduce any potential human health hazard or to protect against a significant threat to public safety.
- Prevent loss of or damage to school structures or property.
- Enhance the quality of life for students, staff and others.

Integrated Pest Management Procedures

IPM procedures will determine when to control pests and whether to use mechanical, physical, chemical, cultural or biological means. IPM practitioners depend on current, comprehensive information on the pest and its environment and the best available pest control methods. Applying IPM principles is intended to prevent unacceptable levels of pest activity and damage by the most economical means and with the least possible hazard to people, property and the environment. Adequate consideration will be given to non-chemical alternatives.

The choice of using a pesticide will be based on a review of all other available options and a determination that these options are not acceptable or are not feasible. Cost and staffing will be considerations but will not alone be adequate justification for use of chemical control agents, and selected non-chemical pest management methods will be implemented whenever feasible to provide the desired control. It is the policy of this District to utilize IPM principles to manage pest populations adequately. The full range of alternatives, including no action, will be considered.

When it is determined that a pesticide must be used in order to meet important management goals, the least hazardous* effective material in the lowest dosage needed will be chosen. The application of pesticides is subject to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 United States Code 136 et seq.), District policies and procedures, Environmental Protection Agency regulations in 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations, and state and local regulations.

Education

Staff, students, pest manager and the public will be informed about potential school pest problems and the IPM policies and procedures to be used to achieve the desired pest management objectives.

Record Keeping

Records of pesticide use shall be maintained on site to meet the requirements of the state regulatory agency and School Board. In addition, pest surveillance data sheets that record indicators of pest populations are to be maintained to verify the need for treatments.

Notification

This District takes the responsibility to notify the staff and students of upcoming pesticide treatments scheduled to occur while school is in session. Notices will be posted in designated areas at school and sent home to parents to inform them in advance of pesticide applications. Such notice will normally be provided at least two days before the application of pesticide. When school is not in session, treated areas will still be posted.

Timing of Applications

The use of pesticides during school hours will be avoided except in emergencies.

Pesticide Storage and Purchase

Pesticide purchases will be limited to the amount authorized for use during the year. Pesticides will be stored and disposed of in accordance with the EPA-registered label directions and state regulations. Pesticides must be stored in an appropriate, secure site not accessible to students or unauthorized personnel.

Pesticide Applicators

Personnel responsible for pesticide application must be educated and trained in the principles and practices of IPM and the use of pesticides approved by this District, and they must follow regulations and label precautions. Applicators will meet certification requirements and comply with this District IPM policy and pest management plan. The District will ensure that staff members using pesticides receive ongoing training in their use.

Agreements for the application of pesticides by outside contractors must comply with this policy and must be reviewed by responsible administrators in advance of any application.

*Precautionary statements are required on all pesticide labels. Signal words indicate the level of acute toxicity, the hazard to humans posed by the pesticide product. Every label bears the child hazard warning: Keep Out of Reach of Children.

Policy Adopted:
Re-Adopted:

September 12, 1994
August 14, 1995

Olympia School District 111
Olympia, Washington

PROCEDURE - SCHOOL PEST MANAGEMENT

8400P

The procedures below are interim in nature. They are to be reviewed at least annually for the purpose of updating to take advantage of emerging practices and/or technologies which better meet the goals and requirements of Policy 8400, and to formulate recommendations for any needed revision to the policy. In particular, the recommendations of Washington State University (through the Cooperative Extension Service) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (through the Urban Pesticide Initiative Steering Committee) will be considered as they become available.

Current guidelines (as of August 1994) are:

1. No pesticide or herbicide is to be applied in the District without prior approval from the Director of Facilities and Operations or the Director of Vocational Education.
2. No pesticide or herbicide is to be applied simply per a preset schedule, i.e., an evaluation of actual need is to be made prior to each application.
3. Signage is to be provided wherever toxics are applied in areas open to students or the public.
4. Pesticides are to be applied only by appropriately trained personnel.
5. Efforts shall be made to avoid the use of pesticides on days when schools are in session.

August 14, 1995

Olympia School District No. 111
Olympia, Washington