

Integrated Pest Management

Purpose

Vancouver School District is committed to providing a safe and healthy learning, working and playing environment for students, staff, families and users of district properties. To minimize potential risks in using pesticides in the school environment, the district adopts an Integrated Pest Management Policy ("IPM Policy"). The IPM Policy is intended to keep unwanted vegetation and pests at acceptable levels in effective, environmentally safe, and economical ways. The health and safety of our students, staff and families are our primary concern.

The Integrated Pest Management Program ("IPM Program") is an ecological approach to controlling unwanted vegetation, plant diseases, and problem pest populations by the use of preventive and non-chemical methods of pest and vegetation management that minimize risks to human health and the environment.

I. Definitions

A. For the purposes of this Policy, a "pest" includes any insect, rodent, nematode, snail, weed, fungus or other form of plant or animal life that adversely interferes with the aesthetic, health, safety, environmental or economic goals of the district. A pest does not include viruses or microorganisms on or in a living person or animal, but shall include plant diseases.

B. The term "pesticide" includes any chemical agent registered as a pesticide by the Washington State Department of Agriculture, which can be a herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides, fungicides, or other chemical that repels, changes the regular growth rate of, kills, or otherwise reduces levels of a targeted pest or pests.

C. The term "parent" includes parent, guardian and custodian.

II. Integrated Pest Management Practices

A. Integrated Pest Management ("IPM") uses preventive and non-chemical methods of control first. These control methods are recorded, monitored, repeated when necessary, and evaluated to determine their degree of success. If the desired effect is not achieved, other alternative methods will be considered in each specific case. When alternative methods have been

employed, evaluated and determined to be unsuccessful, as a last resort, chemical controls may be used in accordance with the Pesticide Use and Selection section of IPM Regulation 3625.

B. The district will perform regular monitoring to determine if and when intervention is necessary and may employ physical, biological, and educational tactics as primary controls to prevent intolerable damage or annoyance from pests. Least-toxic pesticides may be used as a last resort.

C. The Pesticide Use and Selection section of IPM Regulation 3625 provides the criteria that determine what pesticides may be used. When pesticides are deemed necessary, the district will use the minimum effective amount of the least toxic pesticides, used in the manner with the least potential for human exposure. Applications will be timed to minimize exposure to students and staff and to minimize the pesticide's effect on the environment (including salmon streams, animal and bird populations, and beneficial organisms).

D. Pest control activities will be conducted only after consideration is given to potential student exposure both outdoors and within buildings, as well as its effects on classroom activities.

E. The district will work toward a composting practice to help improve soil quality and promote beneficial soil micro-organisms that will help ward off plant diseases and unwanted vegetation.

F. When possible, and as resources permit, the district will implement pest control practices aimed at eliminating the causes of pest infestation, such as preventative practices, natural landscaping, soil improvements, and aeration.

Legal Reference: RCW 17.21 (Washington Pesticide Application Act)

Policy Adopted: March 25, 2002

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R3625 (regulation)
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I. Annual Notification to Parents and Employees

Schools shall provide notice, annually or upon enrollment or hiring, of the district's pest control policy and regulation, which includes the posting and notice requirements for pesticide application.

II. Pre-application Notification

A. To notify parents, staff and other users of school properties of a planned pesticide application, written notification will be given to staff and sent home with students, and signs will be posted a minimum of 48 hours in advance, except when the Director of Maintenance or his/her designee determines that emergency action is required for control of a pest that poses an immediate human health or safety threat, in which case signs will be posted as soon as possible after the application. Notification to parents and staff will not be necessary when application is made during winter, spring and summer breaks.

B. Signs will be placed at the main entrance to each school, athletic field, or other area, as well as at the location of application for all pesticide applications. Signs must be placed at all entrances to an affected area or building, and in other strategic locations to prevent human contact with the treated area.

C. Notification signs must be at least 8.5 by 11 inches, must be readable at a safe distance to prevent contact with the application area, and be on paper of brilliant, eye-catching yellow or orange color. Notification signs will include the following information:

1. WARNING: PESTICIDE APPLICATION;
2. the product and generic name of the pesticide to be used and the intended date and time of the planned application;
3. the active ingredients of the pesticide;
4. the pest to be controlled;
5. the name and phone number of the responsible contact person where the pesticide label, material safety data sheets, and chemical fact sheets may be obtained;
6. rate of application, and
7. a boxed-off warning stating: "CAUTION: Individuals taking medication, pregnant women, infants, children, and individuals with respiratory or heart disease, chemical sensitivities, or weakened immune systems may be particularly susceptible to adverse health effects due to pesticide

exposure."

D. This information will be posted on the district website, www.vansd.org
<<http://www.vansd.org>>

E. The above notification procedures do not apply to containerized baits, which are inaccessible to children.

III. Notification at Time of Pesticide Application

A. Pesticide Application to School Grounds

1. Notification signs will be placed at the location of the application and at each primary point of entry to the school grounds.
2. At a minimum, the Notice shall state: "THIS LANDSCAPE HAS BEEN RECENTLY SPRAYED OR TREATED WITH PESTICIDES BY YOUR SCHOOL. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE DIRECTOR OF MAINTENANCE AT (insert telephone number).
3. The more comprehensive notification form described at B. below may be substituted at the discretion of the Director of Maintenance.

B. Pesticide Application to School Facilities Other Than School Grounds

1. Notification signs shall be posted at the location of the application.
2. Notification signs must be at least 8.5 by 11 inches, must be readable at a safe distance to prevent contact with the application area, and be on paper of brilliant, eye-catching yellow or orange color.
3. The sign shall include the following information:
 - a. WARNING: PESTICIDE APPLICATION;
 - b. the product and generic name of the pesticide to be used and the date and time of the application;
 - c. the active ingredients of the pesticide;
 - d. the pest to be controlled;
 - e. the name and phone number of the responsible contact person where the pesticide label, material safety data sheets, and chemical fact sheets may be obtained;

f. rate of application; and

g. a boxed-off warning stating: "CAUTION: Individuals taking medication, pregnant women, infants, children, and individuals with respiratory or heart disease, chemical sensitivities, or weakened immune systems may be particularly susceptible to adverse health effects due to pesticide exposure."

C. Notification signs shall remain in place for at least one week following application, or longer if toxicity or persistence of the chemical used warrants longer notification time to prevent human contact and exposure.

IV. Record Keeping

A. The Director of Maintenance will maintain records of pesticides used, dates on which the pesticides were applied, weather conditions, amounts and locations of treatments, and target pests. The records of pesticide use, pest control measures, Material Safety Data Sheets ("MSDS") sheets, pesticide labels, chemical fact sheets with information on the health effects of particular chemicals, and manufacturer information about all pesticide ingredients will be on file at the Office of the Director of Maintenance.

B. The Director of Maintenance also will maintain records on preventative measures and natural or alternative treatments used.

V. Roles and Responsibilities

A. An advisory Integrated Pest Management Coordinating Committee (the "IPM Committee") will be formed and include: Director of Maintenance, a school nurse, and no more than two individuals from each of the following at-large groups: parents, teachers, students and community representatives. The at-large positions and the school nurse position will be selected by the district's Superintendent or his/her designee. More than 50% of the members will constitute a quorum.

B. The IPM Committee will:

1. Act in an advisory capacity to staff, teachers, students, parents, or community members by providing information about the IPM Policy and Regulation when requested.
2. Act in an advisory capacity to the Director of Maintenance in setting annual objectives for prevention and control measures for the IPM Program.
3. Act as a resource for the addition of any new pesticide products proposed

for use by the Director of Maintenance.

4. Act in an advisory capacity to the Director of Maintenance when special or challenging situations arise that would benefit from committee research and/or consideration and input.
5. Review the proposed use of least-toxic pesticides under the Pesticide Use and Selection section of this Regulation and report to the Director of Maintenance.
6. Research and report to the Director of Maintenance pesticides suspected to be hazardous to human health.

C. Director of Maintenance: The Director of Maintenance will:

1. Coordinate the compliance of the IPM Program with applicable laws, rules, regulations, and policies.
2. Coordinate the development of natural landscape and engineering design criteria for use in facility and landscape improvement/development projects.
3. Be responsible for final approval of all pesticide applications.
4. Perform research needed to facilitate implementation of the IPM Program. The Director may request assistance from the IPM Committee when needed.
5. Coordinate development of site inventories and vegetation and pest control strategies for each school.
6. Delegate the completion of building and cafeteria checklists. Maintain records of these checks.
7. Coordinate training of all staff members involved directly in vegetation and pest management, as well as staff whose functions could help support the implementation of the IPM Program. These staff members must undergo training at least once every year.
8. Implement the annual parent and staff notification as described in I. above.
9. Conduct an annual Progress Review that meets the requirements of the Progress Review section of this Regulation.

VI. Pesticide/Fertilizer Use and Selection

- A. Fertilizers will have the N-P-K ratio (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium)

recommended by Cooperative Extension for the Pacific Northwest, and be slow-release synthetic/organic nitrogen types to minimize excess run off and contamination of surface water. The district Grounds Maintenance Department will make every effort to apply fertilizers to play fields and lawn areas when students, staff, coaches or others will not be present for at least 24 hours following fertilizer applications.

B. Pesticides will be used only if necessary to protect the health and safety of students and staff, or as a last resort in controlling problematic vegetation or pests according to the methods prescribed in the Integrated Pest Management Practices section of the IPM Policy. No high-hazard pesticides will be used except as a solution of last resort. If a pesticide meets any of the following criteria, it will constitute a high-hazard pesticide:

1. The pesticide is classified as highly acutely toxic (Hazard Category I or II) by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (signal word for Hazard Category I or II products = DANGER or WARNING);
2. The pesticide is a restricted use pesticide (use of the product is restricted to certified pesticide applicators);
3. The pesticide contains ingredients that the United States Environmental Protection Agency has not evaluated and determined to contain no possible, probable, known or likely carcinogens;
4. The pesticide contains reproductive toxicants;
5. The pesticide contains ingredients that are known, probable or suspected endocrine disruptors;
6. The pesticide contains nervous system toxicants;
7. The pesticide contains ingredients that have a soil half-life of more than 100 days; or
8. The pesticide contains ingredients that have high or very high mobility in soil according to the Groundwater Ubiquity Score (GUS) Index.

C. No pesticide will be used if the district does not have information on the pesticide's active ingredients.

VII. Progress Review

A. Each fall, the IPM Committee will review the IPM Program to evaluate how well prevention and control objectives are being met and to identify areas

where improvement is needed. This will include a review of the pesticide application records. The Committee will prepare a report of its findings, which shall include the following information:

1. Quantities of each pesticide used (including an evaluation of effectiveness);
2. Target pest for each pesticide used;
3. Non-chemical vegetation or pest prevention strategies and control measures implemented (including an evaluation of their effectiveness);
4. Pest management plan for the coming year.

B. This report will be presented to the Director of Maintenance.

Legal Reference: RCW 17.21 (Washington Pesticide Application Act)

Approved: March 25, 2002

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