

California
School IPM
Model Program
Guidebook
Summary

What is Integrated Pest Management?

- A pest management strategy that focuses on long-term prevention or suppression of pest problems through a combination of techniques such as monitoring for pest presence and establishing treatment threshold levels, using non-chemical practices to make the habitat less conducive to pest development, improving sanitation, and employing mechanical and physical controls.
- IPM does not eliminate the use of chemical pesticides, but instead uses them only when needed.
- IPM is a common-sense pest management approach that requires pest management action only when necessary and with the least-hazardous method.
- Available food, water, hiding places, and entry points must be eliminated for long-term suppression of a pest.
- Use of least hazardous IPM has been shown to dramatically reduce the use of chemical pesticides, while providing better, longer-lasting control of pests.

Why implement an IPM program?

- Using least-hazardous IPM techniques can save time, money, and energy, as well as decrease the use of pesticides.

DPR's School IPM Web Site

- DPR has established an IPM in Schools Web site at www.cdpr.ca.gov/schoolipm as a source of information on school IPM.
- Resources also available include summaries of the Healthy Schools Act, frequently asked questions, new regulations on school pesticide reporting, an exhaustive listing of pest prevention techniques, sample notification letters to parents about expected pesticide use, a worksheet to determine whether specific pesticide products are exempt from HAS requirements, and many other items.

School IPM Training

- The Healthy Schools Act directs school districts to designate individuals (sometimes known as IPM coordinators) to carry out requirements of this law.
- DPR offers voluntary train-the-trainer workshops so that those who carry out the IPM program understand principles of IPM and can train their staff. These regional workshops showcase model IPM programs and provide hands-on experience.

Pesticide Use Reporting Form

- The Healthy Schools Act requires DPR to prepare a school pesticide use reporting form to be used by licensed pest control businesses when they apply any registered pesticides at a school (Forms must be submitted annually).

What are the Requirements of the Healthy Schools Act for school districts?

- All public school districts are required to comply with the Healthy Schools Act.
- These requirements include:
 - Annual written notification with specified information on pesticides to all school staff and parents of guardians of students.
 - The opportunity for interested staff and parents to register with the school district if they want to be notified of individual pesticide applications at the school before they occur.
 - Posted warning signs at each area of the school where pesticides are applied.
 - Records kept of all pesticide use at the school for four years.

Notification

- Each school district is required to “annually provide to all staff and parents or guardians of pupils enrolled at a school site a written notification of the name of all pesticide products expected to be applied at the school facility during the upcoming year.”
- This notification must include the active ingredient(s) in each pesticide product and the Internet address used to access information on pesticides and pesticide use reduction strategies developed by DPR.
- Recipients of the annual pesticide notice may register with the school district if they wish to receive notification of individual pesticide applications at the school facility.
- People who register for such notification must be notified at least 72 hours before the application.
- If a pesticide is not included in the annual notification but is later intended for use at the school site, the school district must provide written notification of its proposed use at least 72 hours before application.

Posting

- School districts are required to post a warning sign in each area of the school site where pesticides will be applied.
- The sign must prominently read “Warning/Pesticide Treated Area” and will include the “product name, manufacture’s name, the United States Environmental Protection

Agency's product registration number, intended date and areas of application, and reason for pesticide application."

- The warning sign must be visible to everyone entering the treated area and must be posted 24 hours prior to the application and remain posted until 72 hours after the application.

Exemptions to Notification and Posting Requirements

- "Emergency Conditions" are defined in the law as "circumstances in which the school district designee deems that the immediate use of a pesticide is necessary to protect the health and safety of the pupils, staff and other persons, or the school site."
- In an emergency, staff, parents, and guardians need not to be notified 72 hours in advance; however, every effort must be made to provide the notification.
- The warning sign must be posted immediately upon an emergency application and remain posted until 72 hours after the application.
- Pesticide products selected for use must be registered with DPR to control the pest and be effective for the intended purpose.
- Notification and posting requirements described above do not apply to "a pesticide product deployed in the form of a self-contained bait or trap, a gel or paste deployed as a crack and crevice treatment, to any pesticide exempted from regulation by the United States Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, Rodenticide act, or to antimicrobial pesticides, including sanitizers and disinfectants.
- The notification and posting requirements described above do not apply to activities by participants in the state program of agricultural vocational education. School farms are regulated by another set of posting and notification requirements.

Other Requirements for School

- Each school shall maintain records of all pesticide use at the school for four years and make the records available to the public upon request.
- Records can be computerized but paper copies kept in a file provide easy access.
- Records can simply be a copy of the posted warning sign with the amount of pesticide used noted on the copy.

Management Roles

- Students and staff play a major role in keeping the school clean. Sanitation should NOT be viewed as only the custodian's job. If students and staff learn the connection between food, garbage and pests, they are more likely to take sanitation seriously.