

Section E: Support Services

ECB Integrated Pest Management

Pests can pose significant problems to people, property, and the environment. Pesticides pose similar risks. Children spend a great deal of time in schools and face greater potential for health effects resulting from pest and pesticide exposure. By reducing reliance on pesticides and incorporating low-risk control options, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) reduces both pests and pesticide risks. It is therefore the policy of Region 8 to incorporate IPM procedure for controlling pests.

Integrated Pest Management Procedures

IPM incorporates the most economical and least hazardous combination of cultural, physical, biological, and/or chemical controls to prevent unacceptable levels of pest activity and damage. Region 8 will develop a site plan for each locality on school property that may experience pest problems. These plans will incorporate IPM and outline specific management tactics.

The full range of management options, including no action at all, will be considered. The choice of using a pesticide is based on a review of all other available options and a determination that these options are not acceptable or are not feasible. Non-chemical pest management methods are used whenever possible. Direct action will be used only when specific pest thresholds are reached. When it is determined that a pesticide must be used, the least hazardous material and method of application will be chosen. Pesticide applications will be timed to minimize their impact on school grounds. All pesticides will be handled according to state and federal law.

Pest Management Objectives

- Maintain a safe and sustainable school environment
- Protect human health by suppressing pests that threaten public health and safety
- Reduce exposure of humans, particularly children, to pesticides
- Reduce or prevent pest damage to school properties
- Reduce environmental pollution
- Reduce the costs of pest management
- Prevent pests from spreading beyond school property
- Enhance the quality of life for students, staff, and others using school property

IPM Coordinator

Region 8 will appoint an IPM Coordinator responsible for overseeing implementation of the IPM Policy and site plans. The Coordinator's responsibilities will include:

- Recording all pest sightings by staff and students
- Recording all pesticide use
- Coordinating management activities with pest control contractors

- Approving appropriate pesticide applications – methods, materials, timing, and location
- Assuring that all of the pest control contractor’s recommendations on maintenance and sanitation are carried out where feasible
- Posting and notification of pesticide application
- Evaluating Region 8’s progress in implementing the IPM plan

Education

The Region 8 staff will be educated about potential pest problems and IPM methods used to achieve the pest management objectives. From the very beginning, IPM should involve people from all segments of the school community.

Record Keeping

Pest sighting data sheets and pest control records will be kept current and accessible to verify the need for treatments and track the effectiveness of management activities. Pesticide records shall be maintained on site and meet the requirements of the Maine Board of Pesticides Control.

Notification / Posting

A notice will be provided to Region 8 staff, students, and parents at the beginning of each school year briefly explaining Region 8’s pesticide policy. The notice will indicate that pesticides may be used both indoors and outdoors, as needed. Region 8 will provide notification of pesticide applications at least 5 days before pesticides are applied, with the exception of instances that require immediate action.

Pesticide Storage and Purchase

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

Pesticide Applicators

Any person applying pesticides on school grounds will be training in the principles and practices of IPM and licensed by the state to apply pesticides. Applicators must follow state regulations and label precautions and must comply with Region 8’s IPM Policy and pest management site plans.

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