

St. Mary's County Public Schools Integrated Pest Management Plan and Pest Management Practices

Functional Statement

Prior to 1989, SMCPs controlled pests through a scheduled spraying basis, because of a school request or as a result of a Health Department sanitation inspection. Existing pest control procedures to be used in the event of an infestation are presented below.

SMCPs is committed to providing schools with a pest-free environment through the implementation of preventive hygiene methods and chemical strategies when necessary. Past emphasis was on spraying to control pests. Beginning in 1989 a decision was reached to move into a prevention program known as the Integrated Pest Management (IPM). This method emphasizes the use of non-chemical prevention techniques, spraying only when urgently required. Its foundation is an inspection program designed to find and remove the sources of pest food and water. Non-chemical traps are used to determine the presence of pests, their population, and species. When the population is determined to be excessive, their habitat or means of entrance is sought in order to seal it. By denying a source of food and entrance, pests are controlled. If these actions do not work and the infestation persists, applications of non-toxic (boric acid) or least toxic chemicals are made.

IPM is expected to produce the following benefits:

- Increased cleanliness of facilities.
- Reduction of possible adverse effect on sensitized school occupants.
- Emphasis on prevention instead of correction.
- Reduction in costs because of less reliance on outside vendor/contractor services for chemical pest control.

Integrated Pest Management Goal

To provide a safe and health learning and working environment which is conducive to effective staff productivity and student learning by managing pests and their environments so as to balance costs and benefits with human health and environmental quality.

Objective

Pests and pesticides can pose significant problems and risks to people, property, and the environment. The objective of St. Mary's County Public Schools is to incorporate Integrated Pest Management (IPM) procedures for control of structural and landscape pests. These practices will minimize the

amount and toxicity of pesticides used in the schools, eliminate unnecessary pesticide spraying, provide education to school based staff, improve sanitation and utilize licensed pesticide applicators when necessary.

When it is determined that a pesticide must be used in order to meet important management goals, the least hazardous material adequate to control the pest will be chosen and label directions shall be followed. The application of pesticides is subject to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 United States Code 136 et seq.), school 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.

Definitions

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.

Pesticides are chemicals used to control pests and include insecticides, herbicides, rodenticides and fungicides.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is the decision making process that manages pest problems through the utilization of site or pest inspections, pest population monitoring, evaluating the need for control, and the use of one or more pest control methods, such as sanitation, structural repair, non-chemical methods and the use of pesticides.

Integrated Pest Management components include:

- Inspection/Monitoring
- Sanitation/Structural repairs
- Pest control without pesticides, i.e. vacuuming, overseeding
- Pest Control with pesticides
- Record Keeping
- Notification
- Education/Communication
- Program Evaluation/Quality Assurance

Education

Managers responsible for IPM attend classes and seminars relating to potential school pest problems and IPM practices and procedures to be used to achieve the desired pest management objectives.

The Assistant Foreman of Operations shall develop training materials to educate Food Service Personnel and Operations staff on pest prevention techniques, including sanitation, source control and maintaining good structural repair.

Record Keeping

Records of pesticide use shall be maintained on site to meet the requirements of the state regulatory agency and St. Mary's County Public Schools. Records must be current and accurate if IPM is to work. In addition, pest surveillance data sheets that record the number of pests or other indicators of pest populations are to be maintained to verify the need for treatments.

Notification

In addition posting areas to be treated forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the application. Facilities Management personnel, specifically Maintenance and Operations staff, takes the responsibility to notify school administration, and the school nurse a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours in advance of a pesticide application. Operations staff provides the affected school(s) with: (1) copy of the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for the chemical(s) being applied, (2) notification memorandums addressed to the school's principal and school nurse. The school nurse will notify parents whose children are on record with clinical sensitivities or reactions to pesticides and herbicides. It is the responsibility of the individual school to maintain the MSDS in a centrally located area, photocopy the notification announcements and distribute written copies of the forthcoming pesticide application to all school-based staff and to parents on record to receive the notification.

Emergency Applications

In the event an emergency pesticide application is necessary, for example, infestation of bees, wasps, biting spiders, etc., written notification will be issued within forty-eight (48) hours after the application.

Licensed Pesticide Applicators

Only State of Maryland licensed pesticide applicators with a working knowledge of the principles and practices of IPM, and who use only pesticides approved by St. Mary's County Public Schools will be utilized. Contractors must follow regulations and label precautions. Applicators must comply with St. Mary's County Public Schools' IPM Practices and Pest Management Plan including

providing copies of Material Safety Data Sheets, posting of areas to be treated and adhering to the notification timeframes.

Pesticide Applications

Pesticide applications inside the school are scheduled when classrooms are vacant, after hours and on weekends. Whenever possible, pesticide applications made on school grounds will be applied as weather and wind conditions (less than 5-10 mph) permit.

Pest Management

Pest Management plans are developed and approved by the Assistant Foreman of Operations and should include any proposed pest management measures.

Integrated Pest Management Strategies

IPM procedures will be used to determine when to control pests and whether to use mechanical, physical, chemical 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 prevents unacceptable levels of pest activity and damage by the most economical means and with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment.

The decision to use 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 or staffing considerations alone will not be adequate justification for use of chemical control agents, and select non-chemical pest management methods will be implemented whenever possible to provide the desired control. It is the practice of St. Mary's County Public Schools to utilize IPM principles to manage pest populations adequately. The full range of alternatives, including no action, will be considered.

Overview of Pest Management's Integrated Pest Management Practices

- IPM personnel provides periodic inspection of all kitchens, including store rooms and garbage can wash rooms. Zone monitors are placed monthly and a written inspection is presented to the kitchen staff. Additionally, home economic areas are inspected in secondary schools.
- All pesticide applications conducted inside school buildings are scheduled for after school hours or when students are not present in the classroom.
- Requests by a school for special (non-emergency) problems can be called into Maintenance and receive a work order number. Upon receipt, Operations personnel will coordinate a time for inspection and will contact the school.

- Emergency situations, i.e., bees, wasps, bats, snakes, black widow spiders, should be immediately called into to the Maintenance office. Operations personnel will respond the same day.
- All schools must have Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) that correspond to all chemicals being applied in said facility. Operations is responsible for the distribution of MSDS for pest management. However, it is the school's responsibility to maintain these sheets on file for ready access.
- Except for pesticide emergency application, it is incumbent upon the school administration to:
 1. Provide advance notice of application to parents and staff as appropriate.
 2. Ensure necessary administrative measures are taken to reduce risk to those individuals who have been identified as potentially sensitive to pesticides.
 3. Coordinate with School-based Personnel in the scheduling/notification of pesticide applications.

Summary - Integrated Pest Control Program

St. Mary's County Public Schools is utilizing the IPM method of pest control. This method reduces our historical dependence on chemical pest control treatments. It relies on traps, surveys, education, and elevated school cleanliness standards to manage pest populations. Pesticides are used only when all else fails. Even then, the least toxic chemical is applied. Pests will be managed to:

- ***Reduce any potential human health hazard or to protect against a significant threat to public safety.***
- ***Prevent loss or damage to school structures or property.***
- ***Prevent pests from spreading into the community, or to plant and animal populations beyond the site.***
- ***Enhance the quality of life to students, staff, and others.***