

Regulation 3514.2: Integrated Pest Management

Status: ADOPTED

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Definition

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) means a 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 nonchemical practices to make the habitat less conducive to pest development, improving sanitation, and employing mechanical and physical controls. Pesticides that pose the least possible hazard and are effective in a manner that minimizes risks to people, property, and the environment are used only after careful monitoring indicates they are needed according to pre-established guidelines and treatment thresholds. (Food and Agricultural Code 13181)

Procedures

The Superintendent or designee shall designate a staff person to develop, implement, and coordinate an IPM program that incorporates effective, least toxic pest management practices. The district's program shall include the following elements:

1. Carefully monitoring and identifying the pest population levels and identifying practices that could affect pest populations. Strategies for managing the pest shall be influenced by the pest species and whether that species poses a threat to people, property, or the environment.
2. Setting action threshold levels to determine when pest populations or vegetation at a specific location might cause unacceptable health or economic hazard that would indicate corrective action should be taken.
3. Modifying or eliminating pest habitats to deter pest populations and minimize pest infestations.
4. Considering a full range of possible alternative treatments. Such alternative treatments may include taking no action or controlling the pest by physical, horticultural, or biological methods.
5. Selecting nonchemical pest management methods over chemical methods whenever such methods are effective in providing the desired control or, when it is determined that chemical methods must be used, giving preference to those chemicals that pose the least hazard to people and the environment.
6. Ensuring that persons applying pesticides follow label precautions and are trained in the principles and practices of IPM.
7. Limiting pesticide purchases to amounts needed for the year. Pesticides shall be stored at a secure location that is not accessible to students and unauthorized staff. They shall be stored and disposed of in accordance with state regulations and label directions registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as well as any disposal requirements indicated on the product label.

Notifications

The IPM Coordinator shall annually notify staff and parents/guardians of students enrolled at a school site, in writing, regarding pesticide products expected to be applied at the school facility in the upcoming year. (Education Code 17612)

An opportunity for interested persons to register to receive notification of individual pesticide application at the school site. The IPM Coordinator shall notify such registered persons of individual pesticide applications at least 72 hours prior to the application. The notice shall include the product name, the active ingredient(s) in the product, and the intended date of application.

If a pesticide product not included in the annual notification is subsequently intended for use at a school site, the IPM Coordinator shall provide written notification of its intended use to staff and parents/guardians of students enrolled at the school, at least 72 hours prior to the application. (Education Code 17612)

Whenever the IPM Coordinator deems that the immediate use of a pesticide is necessary to protect the health and safety of students, staff, or other persons at the school site, he/she shall make every effort to provide the required notifications prior to the application of the pesticide. (Education Code 17612)

Posting of Warning Signs

The IPM Coordinator shall post a warning sign at the entrance to the school site where pesticides will be applied that shall be visible to all persons entering the treated area. The sign shall be posted at least 24 hours prior to the application and until 72 hours after the application. The warning sign shall display the following information: (Education Code 17612)

1. The term "Warning/Pesticide Treated Area"
2. The product name, manufacturer's name, and the EPA's product registration number
3. Intended areas and dates of application
4. Reason for the pesticide application

When advance posting is not possible due to an emergency condition requiring immediate use of a pesticide, the warning sign shall be posted immediately upon application and shall remain posted until 72 hours after the application. (Education Code 17609, 17612)

Records

Each school site shall maintain records of all pesticide use at the school for four years, and shall make the information available to the public, upon request, in accordance with the California Public Records Act. Such records may be maintained by retaining a copy of the warning sign posted for each pesticide application with a recording on that copy of the amount of the pesticide used. (Education Code 17611)
