

Regulation 3514.2: Integrated Pest Management

Status: ADOPTED

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The Superintendent or designee shall designate an employee at the district office and/or school site to develop, implement, and coordinate an integrated pest management (IPM) program that incorporates effective, least toxic pest management practices. The IPM coordinator shall prepare and regularly update a districtwide or school site IPM plan based on the template provided by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR).

Integrated pest management 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. (Education Code 17609; Food and Agricultural Code 13181)

The IPM plan and this administrative regulation shall not apply to reduced-risk pesticides, including self-contained baits or traps, gels or pastes used for crack and crevice treatments, antimicrobials, and pesticides exempt from registration by law. (Education Code 17610.5; 3 CCR 6147)

The IPM coordinator shall not use any pesticide that is prohibited by DPR or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, as listed on the DPR web site. (Education Code 17610.1)

Program Components

The district's program shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following components:

1. Identifying and monitoring 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 hazards 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 cost-effective treatments. Such alternative treatments may include taking no action or controlling the pest by physical, horticultural, or biological methods. Cost or staffing considerations alone will not be adequate justification for the use of chemical control agents.
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 hazardous effects to people and the environment.
6. 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 EPA as well as any disposal requirements indicated on the product label.
7. Informing parents/guardians and employees regarding pesticide use as described in the sections "Notifications" and "Warning Signs" below.
8. Ensuring that persons applying pesticides follow label precautions and are sufficiently trained in the principles and practices of IPM.

Beginning July 1, 2016, the IPM coordinator and any employee or contractor who intends to apply a pesticide at a school site shall annually complete a DPR-approved training course on IPM and the safe use of pesticides in relation to the unique nature of school sites and children's health. (Education Code 17614; Food and Agricultural Code 13186.5)

Notifications

Staff and parents/guardians of students enrolled at a school site shall be annually notified, in writing, regarding pesticide products expected to be applied at the school site in the upcoming year. The notification shall include at least the following: (Education Code 17612)

1. The name of each pesticide product expected to be applied in the upcoming year and the active ingredient(s) in it
2. The Internet address (<https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/schoolipm>) used to access information on pesticides and pesticide use reduction developed by the DPR pursuant to Food and Agricultural Code 13184
3. If the school has posted its IPM plan, the Internet address where the plan may be found
4. The opportunity to view a copy of the IPM plan in the school office
5. An opportunity for interested persons to register to receive prior notification of each application of a pesticide at the school site
6. Other information deemed necessary by the IPM coordinator

Whenever a person registers to receive notice of individual pesticide application pursuant to item #5 above, 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. (Education Code 17612)

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)

If a school chooses to use a pesticide not exempted pursuant to Education Code 17610.5, it shall post the school or district IPM plan on the school's web site or, if the school does not have a web site, then on the district web site. If neither the school nor district has a web site, then the IPM plan shall be included with the annual notification sent to staff and parents/guardians pursuant to Education Code 17612 as described above. The plan shall include the name of the school designee or IPM coordinator, the pesticides applied at the school site by school or district employees and hired pest control applicators, and a date when the plan shall be reviewed and updated as necessary. When not required, the IPM coordinator may post or distribute the IPM plan at his/her discretion. (Education Code 17611.5)

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)

Warning Signs

Note: Education Code 17612 requires posting of a warning sign in each area of a school site where pesticides will be applied. A sample warning sign can be found on the DPR web site.

The IPM coordinator shall post a warning sign at each area of 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 shall remain posted until 72 hours after the application. The warning sign shall prominently 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

Note: Food and Agricultural Code 13186 requires pest control operators to report the use of pesticides at a school site to the county agricultural commissioner or director. Pursuant to Education Code 17611, as amended by SB 1405 (Ch. 848, Statutes of 2014), any pesticide use that is not included in the report submitted pursuant to Food and Agricultural Code 13186 must be reported to the DPR by the school designee as provided below. The form that must be used for this report is available on DPR's web site.

At the end of each calendar year, the IPM coordinator shall submit to the DPR, on a form provided by the DPR, a copy of the records of all pesticide use at the school site for that year, excluding any pesticides exempted by law and any pesticide use reported by the pest control operator pursuant to Food and Agricultural Code 13186. The IPM coordinator may submit more frequent reports at his/her discretion. (Education Code 17611)

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)
