



Oklahoma School IPM

IPM School Policy



An IPM policy is more than a statement committing to implement IPM. This document is an IPM guide to assist the school and team members in conducting a complete IPM program. The policy statement includes pest management objectives and goals; a set of roles and responsibilities for occupants, pest management personnel and decision makers; and a set of pest management guidelines. An explanation of the section is written in italics. This is a sample policy and can be adapted for use in your school.

School Pest Management Policy Statement

The policy statement explains the reasons for and objectives of the program. This will show the importance of pest management, the intention of using IPM to implement pest management, and how pesticides may be involved to parents and other interested parties. This policy provides an incentive for school staff to actively implement IPM procedures throughout the school.

Pests can pose significant problems to people, property, and the environment. Pesticides pose similar risks. Children spend more time in schools than generations before and face greater potential for health effects resulting from pest and pesticide exposure. By reducing reliance on pesticides and incorporating low-risk management options, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) reduces both pests and pesticide risks. The policy of this school (*district*) is to apply IPM techniques for controlling pests in school buildings and on school grounds.

Integrated Pest Management Objectives

This section defines IPM and lists specific reasons for managing pests. A pest management plan with established pest thresholds and management methods should be written as an attachment or separate document. This plan provides a reference for Pest Management Professionals and school occupants to assure the implementation and compliance with the school's IPM policy.

The goal of IPM is long-term pest management; therefore, emphasis is placed on preventing pests and on making the school environmental inhospitable to them. Pest activity is regularly monitored and the least hazardous combination of cultural, physical, biological, and/or pesticide tools to prevent unacceptable levels of pest activity and damage. The school will develop specific plans for individual sites (kitchen, classroom, grounds, athletic fields, etc.) that incorporate IPM and outline specific management tactics. IPM does not exclude the use of pesticides but minimizes their use in and around school properties.

IPM procedures will determine when to control pests, and whether to use sanitation, or physical, horticultural or biological measures. Pesticides are used only after all other alternatives are considered and found to be inadequate or not feasible to prevent unacceptable levels of pest activity and damage. Cost or staffing considerations alone are not adequate justification for pesticide use. The full range of alternatives, including no action, will be considered.

- 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 control.

- Prevent pests from spreading beyond school property.
- Enhance the quality of life for students, staff, and others using school property.
- Preserve the integrity of the school buildings or structures.
- Provide the safest playing or athletic surfaces possible.

IPM Coordinator

The school (district) must identify a person to serve as the IPM coordinator for the school (district). This person is the primary contact for pest management matters and coordinates all pest management decisions for the school (district). This individual will be responsible for maintaining records of pest sightings and pesticide use (at specified school sites). This person will determine if the school's (district's) IPM policy is followed correctly.

The school (district) will select a person to serve as the IPM Coordinator for the site (district). The IPM Coordinator's responsibilities include:

- Facilitate monthly IPM Committee meetings for optimum communication for the school (district).
- Facilitate yearly site inspections with the IPM Committee.
- Maintain records of pest sightings, building maintenance needs, and pesticide applications.
- Contact the Pest Management Professional for pest management updates.
- Assure that all of the Pest Management Professional's recommendations on maintenance and sanitation are carried out where feasible.
- *Assure plant health is maintained to prevent pest problems.*
- *Maintain a list of parents and staff for notification.*
- *Implement notification procedures.*
- Assure that any pesticide use is done when school is not in session or when the area can be completely secured against access from school staff and students.
- *Conduct educational avenues (newsletter, workshops, school curriculum) for occupants.*
- Evaluate and present the school's progress in the IPM plan.

IPM Committee

This committee can be useful in making suggestions, doing research, and bringing in new information, but should not have the authority to make policy. The committee needs members to include a pest management professional (preferably one trained in IPM), the IPM Coordinator, and representatives from the school administration, maintenance department, and community. Ideally, the committee would also include someone trained in toxicology and someone knowledgeable about the laws and regulations governing pesticides. A teacher and a principal is also helpful. The IPM coordinator has many responsibilities, and if this is an additional responsibility to current job requirements, then the coordinator may need to delegate various duties.

The IPM Coordinator and school (district) administrators will select a committee to advise and implement school policy on pest management issues.

Education

For an IPM program to be successful, all people (students, parents, teachers, staff, administration, and the public) should be aware of the school's policies on pest management and their respective roles in the overall pest management plan. Training must be included in an IPM program so occupants understand the changes that occur and personnel who deal directly with pest management can easily secure information, tools, and techniques to assist them make the transition to IPM.

Students, teachers, parents, staff, and the public will be informed about potential school pest problems,

the IPM policies and procedures, and their respective roles in achieving the desired pest management objectives. Thorough training will be available to staff directly involved in pest management, food service, and building and ground maintenance. IPM related curriculum will be used in the classroom when possible.

Monitoring

Monitoring is the keystone of IPM and should be an integral part of the school's pest management procedures.

The IPM Coordinator and committee will conduct thorough inspections of the school property yearly. In addition, more frequent inspections will occur in specific IPM committee areas as appointed by the IPM Coordinator. This process will serve as an inventory for conditions that could lead to pest problems. Key pest populations will be monitored to determine if, and when, action should occur. Inspection activity records will assist to determine optimum times to manage pests. Monitoring will continue after treatment to evaluate effectiveness.

Record Keeping

Written records serve as the memory of an IPM program. Records of pest sightings, monitoring, and pesticide use assist with locating problem areas on school property. These logs also record the type and location of pesticides applied. These records help in periodic evaluation of the pest management plan and development of any necessary modifications. The IPM Coordinator or other designated person will be the main contact person for keeping these records.

Records of pesticide use will be maintained on site for three(?) years. Records will be completed on the day of pesticide use. In addition, pest surveillance records will be maintained to help verify the need of pesticide treatments. Occupants will have access to record any necessary information to assist with pest management.

Notification

Some students, parents, and staff may want to know when pesticides are applied on school property for various reasons. Pre-application notices will be provided, when possible, to people who wish to be informed of the school's pesticide use.

A notice will be provided to school staff, students, and parents at the beginning of each school year briefly explaining the school's pesticide use policy. It will indicate that pesticides may be used both indoors and outdoors, as needed. The school will provide, to the extent possible, notification of pending pesticide use to persons requesting the information.

Pesticide Applicators

If pesticide use is necessary, schools must assure the people using pesticides are trained and knowledgeable IPM and pesticide use. Pest Management Professionals should assist schools establish a monitoring program for pests and assist in eliminating situations that foster pest problems. Currently, any person who applies pesticides in a school or to the grounds as a condition of their employment or as incidental to their job must be trained and certified in specific categories according to the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry. If the applicator is on contract, they must be licensed in specific categories with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry.

The Pest Management Professional is recommended to work with the IPM Coordinator on pest solutions and prevention techniques. Any person applying pesticides on school grounds must be trained and knowledgeable in the principles and practices of IPM. Any use of pesticides must be approved by the school (district) and IPM Coordinator. Applicators must follow state regulations and label precautions.

Applicators must comply with the School IPM Policy and Pest Management Plan. Unauthorized persons are prohibited from bringing and/or applying pesticides to school property.

Pesticide Selection

Pesticides will be used only as needed, and when pesticides are needed to the least toxic methods of control are preferred. The school (district) will list pesticides that are acceptable for use in the school. In general, pesticide baits are preferable to sprays, and synthetic pyrethroids should be used instead of organophosphates and carbamates. The signal word appearing on the pesticide label may be helpful in selecting less toxic products. In general, these are products with the signal word "caution". Pesticides will be applied according to the laws governing pesticide use.

When pesticide use is necessary, the school (district) must approve the pesticide for school use. The schools preferred pesticides for use are pesticide baits and pesticide sprays with the signal word of caution.

When the determination is to use a pesticide, the least-hazardous material is selected. The applications of such pesticides is subject to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations in 40 CFR, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations, Oklahoma health dept., and the school district's policies and procedures.

Pesticide Labeling Information

Federal and state law require that precautionary statements and signal words be included on all pesticide labels. Always read pesticide labels thoroughly. Use all pesticides according to label directions. Misuse of any pesticide is not only illegal, but may create a potentially dangerous situation. The signal words indicate the level of acute (immediate) toxicity of the pesticide to human when taken orally. The chronic (long-term) toxicity is not indicated on the label. Note that chronic toxicity may be important for materials used frequently or extensively, or used in areas where children may receive regular whole-body exposure (for example, lawns on which young children play, sit, and lie). Chronic toxicity information can be obtained from several reputable sources, such as U. S. EPA (available at <http://www.epa.gov/iriswebp/index.html>) or the National Pesticide Telecommunication Network (1-800-858-7378). Every pesticide label bears the warning "Keep Out of Reach of Children."

Signal Words

If none of these warnings is provided, do not use the pesticide.

DANGER: The category of highest toxicity. A taste to a teaspoonful taken by mouth could kill an average-sized adult.

WARNING: The category of moderate toxicity. A teaspoon to an ounce taken by mouth could kill an average-sized adult.

CAUTION: The category of least toxicity. An ounce to over a pint taken by mouth could kill an average-sized adult.

These warnings are expressed as amounts taken by mouth; however, most actual exposure is through skin and lungs. Thus, this system is not sufficient to guarantee safety and is one indicator. No materials with the DANGER indication should be used near children. Therefore, WARNING materials should be rarely used on pests that no CAUTION materials are registered. Additional information, when available, about chronic toxicity should be used to compare different materials to choose the least-hazardous pesticides.

Pesticide Purchase, Storage, and Disposal

These directions are more specific than many pesticide label directions for both storage and disposal.

Pesticide purchases will be limited to the amount authorized for use during the year. Unwanted pesticides must be disposed of at a Hazardous Waste Collection Facility and never be placed in the trash or poured down any type of indoor or outdoor drain. Pesticides must be stored in a dark, cool, dry, and secure site not accessible to students or unauthorized personnel. A cabinet in a non-student area with a locked and labeled door is advised. The door label should include a visual signal, such as skull-and-crossbones, for non-English reading children and adults.

Pesticide Lists, Approved or Banned

These lists can present many problems in implementing an IPM program, especially if they are written with little knowledge of pesticides and pest management. Approved lists need to be updated constantly because new products and active ingredients come to the market every few months and old products frequently change their names or formulations, or they disappear. Banned lists can inadvertently remove products or active ingredients that are widely accepted IPM tools when broad categories of chemicals are banned. The dose makes the poison and there

must be exposure to the material for a problem(s) to occur. Banning chemicals before substitutes or alternatives are identified can make the transition to IPM very difficult. The perceived lack of tools can lead to obstruction from personnel who work most closely with pest management and add unnecessary stress to the system. Many IPM programs function very well without banned or approved lists, but if a list is required, an approved list will cause fewer problems. Make sure to list "antimicrobial pesticides including sanitizers and disinfectants" on the approved list and include a clause about emergency exemptions. Tying the school (district) to a fixed percentage reduction in pesticide use can also hamper the progress of an IPM program. When IPM is properly implemented, pesticide use will be minimized.



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