

Integrated Pest Management Policy Statement

Como-Pickton Consolidated Independent School District

Structural and landscape pests can pose significant problems to people, property and the environment. Pesticides can also pose risks to people, property, and the environment. It is therefore the policy of the Como-Pickton Consolidated Independent School District to incorporate integrated pest management (IPM) procedures into the District maintenance program for control of indoor and outdoor pest problems.

Definitions

Pests are populations of living organisms (animals, plants, or microorganisms) that interfere with use of school facilities 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.

Integrated pest management, or IPM, is a strategy that focuses on long-term prevention or suppression of pest populations using a combination of tactics that minimize the impact of control activities on human health and the health of other, non-target organisms.

An IPM plan is a set of procedures detailing how particular pest problems will be handled by District IPM staff. The IPM plan for a particular facility will include descriptions of planned activities to reduce pest presence or maintain a pest-free environment. Details within such plans may include needed facilities or landscape improvements, pest-proofing modifications, approved non-chemical and chemical control or the success of control efforts.

Development of IPM Plans

- The District will appoint an IPM coordinator whose duties include the development and implementation of a pest management plan. Objectives of the IPM plan will include:
 - Elimination of significant threats caused by pests to the health and safety of students, staff or the public.
 - Prevention of loss or damage to school structures or property by pests.
 - Protection of environmental quality inside and outside school buildings.
 - Enhance the quality of life for students, staff and the public.

Essential IPM Principles

- The District's pest management plans will be based on the following principles:
 - Knowledge of the pest's identity, biology and life cycles will establish the basis for selection of appropriate control actions.
 - Monitoring of pest numbers and record-keeping will be used to identify pest and sites requiring control action.
 - Predetermined action thresholds for important pest problems will be determined by IPM staff, so that results of inspections and monitoring programs can be used to help staff objectively determine when control actions are justified.
 - The full range of control options including physical controls, mechanical controls, biological controls and chemical controls (including the option of "no action") will be considered when deciding on a pest management action.

- Educational activities will be conducted to enhance the cooperation and understanding among staff, students, and the public.

Pesticide Use in School Facilities

Decisions concerning whether or not pesticides should be applied in a given situation will be based on a review of all available options. Efforts will be made to avoid the use of pesticides by adequate pest-proofing of facilities, good sanitation practices, selection of pest-resistant plant materials, and appropriate horticultural practices. When it is determined that a pesticide must be used in order to meet pest management objectives, the least-hazardous material, adequate for the job, will be chosen.

Cooperation with IPM Coordinator

The District will provide administrative support to assist the IPM Coordinator in developing an IPM program that relies on minimal pesticide use. Such support will include efforts to promptly address any structural, horticultural, or sanitation changes recommended by the Coordinator to reduce or prevent pest problems. Furthermore, the District will assist the Coordinator in developing and delivering materials and programs for staff, students, and the public to educate them about the importance of good sanitation and pest control.

Contractual Agreements with IPM Providers

Outside contractors providing pest control services to the District will be required to adhere to IPM standards required for in-house staff. All contracted pest control activities will follow IPM plans based on the IPM principles outlined above. The District will ensure that contractor selection is determined not solely according to price, but also by the contractor's ability to provide satisfactory IPM services.

Facilities Planning

Pest management concerns will be addressed by the District during the planning and design phase for new construction projects. Pest management-related modifications to facilities will include (but is not limited to) selection of well-adapted and pest-tolerant plant varieties for outdoor plantings, proper placement and types of lighting to reduce pest entry into buildings, and pest-resistant design of roofing, doorways, ventilation systems, and trash storage containers.

Cooperation with Regulatory Agencies

All pesticide storage, transportation and application will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (7 United States Code 136 et seq.), Environmental Protection Agency regulations in 40 CFR, Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations, Texas Structural Pest Control Act (article 135B-6 of the Texas Revised Civil Statutes) with associated regulations (Title 22, Texas Administrative Code, sections 591-599) and school District policies and procedures, and local ordinances. State regulations followed by the district include requirements to notify students, staff and parents about pesticide applications; keeping proper pesticide application records, including copies of labels and Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for all pesticides used on school facilities; adherence to a 12-hour waiting interval between pesticide application and student occupation of treated facilities; use of least-hazardous pesticides according to the pesticide approval process for schools; and licensing of all staff who apply pesticides. No person shall store or apply any pesticide on school

District property without an appropriate commercial or noncommercial pesticide applicator's license.

Licensing and Training for Pesticide Applicators

No person shall apply, store or dispose of any pesticide on school District property without an appropriate pesticide applicator's license. All pesticide applicators will be trained in the principles and practices of IPM and the use of pesticides approved for use in the school District. All applicators must comply with this IPM policy and follow appropriate regulations and label precautions when using pesticides in or around school facilities.

Action Plan for IPM

Written Program

All maintenance personell have been instructed on what to look for with regards to building maintenance in inhibiting pests from entering buildings. Special note was taken in inspecting areas all ready in need of caulking or sealing. Caulking will be done bi-annually during christmas break and during summer break. A person will be designated to check all penetrations through walls and entrances and exits from all buildings. It is noted that the field house has a type of tin siding that will be nearly impossible to restrict the entry of roof rats and other insects. This corrugated siding will allow pests to enter the building and coaches and students must be consistently reminded of the importance of not leaving any food in open areas and to insure no water is left running. Another area of concern was noted during inspection of the Gym area. The construction of the addition at the rear of the gym allows for both roof rats and birds to enter the attic space of the building. Steps will be taken to seal these areas and a monthly check for a loss of integrity will be performed by a specified individual. The IPM coordinator will also perform monthly inspections of all buildings, inside and outside for areas of concern or needed maintenance. Teachers and staff have been provided forms to fill out and turn in when pests are noticed. These reports will be acted up based upon the following action thresholds:

fire ants: preventative treatment for fire ants will be performed each March or April; there will be no fire ant mounds tollerated in the following areas; within 6 ft. of any building, playground areas, school common areas. There will be no more than one mound on any 500 sq. ft. of playing area or spectator area on athletic fields.

common ants: classroom and other common areas indoors, 5 per room; kitchen, 3 ants per room, maintenace areas, 5 ants per room; supply rooms, 5 ants per room.

Roof rats Or other rodents- prevention-daily removal of trash in all receptacles. inside and outside of buildings. Check food areas for proper storage and disposal. Check for all areas of penetration from outside. i.e. windows, doors, plumbing/electrical chase ways, etc for needed caulking or mortar work. Threshold: Any sightings of rodents or fresh droppings. Contact licensed contractor for use of green list rodent bait when other options fail.

Cockroaches: Daily removal of food excess and trash. daily cleaning of floors. weekly check of food storage and disposal. checking for harborage and improper storage. check all building penetrations for proper caulking and sealing. Threshold: 2 or more roaches in classroom, kitchen, or public area. Outside areas will cause action only if a noticeable infestation exists.

Spiders: Check feasibility of changing outdoor security lighting to using bulbs not conducive to attracting insects. removal of any visible webbing to prevent nesting, and check building penetrations for proper sealing and caulking. Threshold: 2 spiders in one classroom or public area. Apply least toxic pesticide with IPM coordinator approval if infestataion occurs.

Weeds: Weeds shall be kept clear of fence lines, walkways, and buildings with weekly weed eating done during the spring, summer, and fall months as weather permits. Athletic fields shall be fertilized by a liscenced contractor. Any other chemical applications shall be approved by the IPM coordinator.

Birds: All penetrations shall be checked for proper sealing and entrance inhibited by screen and or caulking as appropriate. Owls and/or "big eyes" used in covered walkways and patios to deter birds from nesting. Remove nests by spraying water or by hand when necessary. Threshold: any bird inside building.

Como-Pickton ISD Action Thresholds

<i>Pest</i>	<i>Classroom/ Public Areas</i>	<i>Maintenance Areas</i>	<i>Infirmary</i>	<i>Kitchen</i>	<i>Grounds</i>
Common Ants	5/room	5/100 square feet	1/room	3/room	2 mounds/yard
Carpenter Ants	3/room	3/room	1/room	2/room	1 nest within 25 feet
Bees Honey Bumble Carpenter	1/room	3/room	1/room	1/room	If children are threatened; 1 carpenter bee/5 linear feet
Cockroaches	2/room	5/room	1/room	1/room	If noticeable or invading
Crickets	3/room	10/room	1/room	2/room	If nuisance
House Flies	3/room	5/room	1/room	1/room	5/trash can; 10/dumpster
<i>Lice (head or body) Take no action – refer to nurse</i>					
Mice	1/room	1/room	1/room	1/room	Activity in student area
Rats	1/room	1/room	1/room	1/room	Any activity
Silverfish	1/room	3/room	1/room	2/room	N/A
Spiders, Poisonous	1/room	1/room	1/room	1/room	1/activity area
Spiders, other	1/room	1/room	1/room	1/room	Only if nuisance
Wasps, hornets	1/room	1/room	1/room	1/room	If threatening children; 10/10 minutes at trash