

Section: **SCHOOL FACILITIES**

Procedure Title: **Pesticide Notification, Posting and Record Keeping**

For purposes of this procedure “pests” are defined as: Any living organism that by the situation or size of its population adversely interferes with the health, environmental, functional, or economic goals of humans.

The Kelso School District will provide a safe and healthy environment for our students, staff and users of school properties. To this end, the District will utilize safe and effective practices to control structural, nuisance, and landscape pests.

When pests reach an unacceptable threshold, they can adversely impact the school environment. Pesticides used to control pests can also pose risks if used indiscriminately.

To minimize risk from both pests and pesticides, the District will implement an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policy. IPM emphasizes preventing and reducing pest problems by using proactive, non-chemical control practices, rather than responding to a pest crisis through the use of pesticides. IPM relies on a combination of common sense strategies. IPM programs take advantage of all pest management options possible including, but not limited to, the judicious use of pesticides.

Procedures

The District will use IPM procedures to prevent pests or their damage from reaching unacceptable levels. IPM is an approach to pest control that utilizes regular monitoring to determine if and when treatments are needed and employs physical, cultural, biological, chemical and educational tactics to keep pest numbers low enough to prevent intolerable damage or annoyance. The District will provide information to parents, staff, and students, as appropriate, to inform them about the IPM program and define their responsibilities in assisting with this process.

At the beginning of the school year, all parents will receive information about the District IPM program that explains the concepts of IPM and includes the following:

All pesticide application (including insecticides, herbicides, rodenticides, and fungicides) made to District sites will be under the direction of a Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) licensed pest control applicator or operator (PCO) or a licensed public agency operator. Unauthorized faculty and staff are not permitted to use their own pesticide products at any school site or facility.

No applications will be made during times that buildings are occupied. Applications will only be made on weekends or vacation periods when schools are unoccupied.

Each site has a registration system to notify parents, staff, and students who express an interest of proposed pesticide applications. Notices will be given to registered individuals either 48 hours in advance of the application or on the day preceding a weekend or vacation period application. No notices will be sent when tamper-resistant insect or rodent bait stations are used.

Pre-notification requirements do not apply to any emergency application for control of any pest that poses an immediate human health or safety threat, such as an application to control stinging insects. When an emergency application is made, notification consistent with the registration system shall occur as soon as possible after the application.

Posting

For indoor pesticide applications, sites will be posted either 48 hours in advance of the application, or on the day preceding a weekend or vacation period application. Personnel will comply with any existing or future federal or state laws regarding posting.

For outdoor pesticide applications, sites will post according to Washington State laws governing landscape application (RCW 17.21.410).

Signs will remain for 48 hours after an application has been completed. The District will not require a sign be replaced if the original has been removed or destroyed. Licensed applicators or operators will not be held responsible for signs removed or destroyed by acts beyond their control.

Recordkeeping

Maintenance will maintain pesticide application records in accordance with the Washington State General Pesticide Rules (WAC 16-228-190). Pesticide application records, pest monitoring records, Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), and pesticide product labels will be on file in the Maintenance office.

The Principal or building manager will be responsible for maintaining a pesticide product label and MSDS sheet for each product used at their site. It will be the responsibility of the commercial applicator, commercial operator, or public operator to provide these documents to the principal or building manager and/or the designee.

Pesticide Storage

All pesticides used at any school site will be registered with the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the WSDA. Pesticides will be stored in a clearly posted and secure site not accessible to students or other unauthorized personnel.

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