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Hermon School Department

Integrated Pest Management Policy

Pests can pose significant problems to people, property and the environment. Pesticides pose similar risks. Children spend a great deal of time in schools and face greater potential for health effects resulting from pest and pesticide exposure. By reducing reliance on pesticides and incorporating low-risk control options, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) reduces both pests and pesticide risks. It is therefore the policy of the Hermon School Department to apply IPM techniques for controlling pests in school buildings and on school grounds.

Integrated Pest Management Techniques

IPM relies on pest monitoring and the most economical and least hazardous combination of cultural, physical, biological, and/or chemical controls to prevent unacceptable levels of pest activity and damage. The School Department will develop a site plan for each locality on school property that may experience pest problems. These plans will incorporate IPM and outline specific management tactics.

The full range of management options, including no action at all, will be considered. The choice of using a pesticide is based on a review of all other available options and a determination that these options are not acceptable or are not feasible. Non-pesticide pest management methods are used whenever possible. Direct action will be used only when specific pest thresholds are reached. When it is determined that a pesticide must be used, the least hazardous material and method of application will be chosen. Pesticide applications will be timed to minimize their impact on school grounds. All pesticides including disinfectants, fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides, repellants and wood preservatives will be handled according to state and federal laws.

Pest Management Objectives

- Maintain a safe and sustainable 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 management.
- Prevent pests from spreading beyond school property.
- Enhance the quality of life for students, staff and others using school property.

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IPM Coordinator

The School Department shall appoint an IPM coordinator responsible for overseeing implementation of the IPM policy and site plans. The coordinator's responsibilities will include:

- Recording all pest sightings by school staff and students
- Recording all pesticide use
- Coordinating management activities with pest control contractors
- Approving appropriate pesticide applications - methods, materials, timing and location
- Assuring that all of the pest control contractor's recommendations on maintenance and sanitation are carried out where feasible
- Posting and notification of pesticide application
- Evaluating the school's progress in implementing the IPM plan.

Education

The school community will be educated about potential pest problems and IPM methods used to achieve the pest management objectives. From the very beginning, IPM should involve people from all segments of the school community.

Record Keeping

Pest sighting data sheets and pest control records will be kept current and accessible to verify the need for treatments and track the effectiveness of management activities. Pesticide records shall be maintained on site and meet the requirements of the Maine Board of Pesticides Control.

Notification/Posting

Within the first two weeks of every school year a notice will be provided to school staff, students and parents or legal guardians briefly explaining the School Department's pesticide use policy. The notice will indicate that pesticides may be used both indoors and outdoors as needed and that applications will be noticed in accordance with the Board of Pesticides Control's Chapter 27: Standards for Pesticide Application and Public Notification in Schools. Notification will be given at least five days before planned pesticide application. Pesticide application notices will also be posted in school and on school grounds. Notification need not be given for pesticide applications recognized by law to pose little or no risk of exposure to children or staff.

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Pesticide Storage and Purchase

Pesticide purchases will be limited to the amount authorized for use during the year. Pesticides will be stored in an appropriate, secure site that is not accessible to students or unauthorized personnel and disposed of in accordance with label directions and state regulations.

Pesticide Applicators

Any person applying pesticides in school buildings or on school grounds will be trained in the principles and practices of IPM and will hold a commercial pesticide applicator license in the appropriate category. Applicators will follow state regulations and label precautions and must comply with the School Department's IPM policy and pest management site plans.