

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

DEFINITION

"Integrated pest management (IPM) is a pest management strategy that focuses on long term prevention or suppression of pest problems with minimum impact on human health, the environment, and non-target organisms. Preferred pest management techniques include encouraging naturally occurring biological control, using alternate plant species or varieties that resist pests, selecting pesticides with a lower toxicity to humans or nontarget organisms; adoption of cultivating, pruning, fertilizing, or irrigation practices that reduce pest problems; or changing the habitat to make it incompatible with pest development. Broad spectrum pesticides are used as a last resort when careful monitoring indicates they are needed according to preestablished guidelines. When treatments are necessary, the least toxic and most target specific pesticides are chosen." (University of California)

This plan accepts the fact that there will always be pests present on District sites. Given this fact, the goal is to manage the pest at a tolerable level to maintain a safe and healthy school environment.

The implementation of this plan shall be in compliance with all District policies, local, state, and federal laws or regulations.

SITE EVALUATION

Site evaluations are to be performed by the District's State Certified Applicator(s) or Registered Technicians. Registered Techs will work under the supervision of the Certified Applicator(s). These evaluations are to include the following (3) areas:

1. Description of the site
 - a) identifying potential problem areas and recommendations to correct these areas.
 - b) identify all sensitive areas associated with site as defined in State Regulation 637.
2. Inspection of site
 - a) number of pests found or reported.
 - b) identification of pest.
 - c) conditions that are conducive to pest establishment.
3. Monitoring of site
 - a) all sites to be monitored on a monthly basis by a State Certified Applicator or Registered Technician.
 - b) additional monitoring is to be done a weekly basis by the Custodial/Grounds staff

THRESHOLD LEVEL

Threshold level is defined by the District as the level at which a pesticide application is necessary to manage the pest. This level cannot be reached without first exhausting all alternative solutions to the pest problem. These alternative solutions must have been proven effective by other school districts or government agencies in terms of cost and safety.

PEST MANAGEMENT METHODS

The underlying principle of this plan is to use the least toxic alternative first. All methods are to be evaluated by the Operations Department for cost effectiveness and safety before they are implemented. The following considerations to pest management are to be used:

1. Prevention: this will be achieved by pest habitat modification or elimination i.e. caulking of cracks in walls and floors, modifying cleaning and storage practices, using different cleaning agents.
2. Reduction: this will be achieved by using a combination of the following techniques; mechanical, biological and chemical. Restricted use chemicals are only to be used if all other control measures have failed to work.

EVALUATION

The District recognizes it's responsibility to evaluate all aspects of this plan. The following steps to evaluation are to be used:

1. All components of this plan are to be evaluated by the Operations Department on a yearly basis.
2. All pest management methods are to be evaluated after every use.
3. These evaluations will be on permanent file at the building and Operations Office.

RECORD-KEEPING

The following steps are to be used in record-keeping:

1. All pest management methods that are used shall be recorded in a permanent file at the site and Operations office.
2. The appropriate GRPS application record form must be used (see attached forms).
 - a) indoor record form
 - b) exterior record form
 - c) pest management checklist
3. Upon written request to the Operations office, records shall be made available to the public.

PEST MANAGEMENT CHECKLIST

The District's pest management checklist must be used by anyone requested to perform pest management. This form must be completed before every pesticide application. A copy of this document must be attached to the pesticide application record (see attached form).

CONTRACTORS

In the case where the District employs a contractor to perform any part of this plan, the contractor will be required to comply with all parts of this plan, as well as any and all applicable District policies, local, state, and federal laws or regulations. The contractor shall supply the District with a current copy of its applicators certifications.

EDUCATION

The District understands that for this plan to be effective all district employees impacted by this plan will receive adequate training so that it is understood. The District also recognizes its' responsibility towards the public that use its' facilities and will establish an avenue by which they can be informed and educated about the District's Integrated Pest Management strategies.

Dear Parents/Guardian,

Grand Rapids Public Schools has adopted an Integrated Pest Management program. Inherent with this are the district's efforts to reduce pesticide use as much as possible. While it may occasionally be necessary to apply a pesticide, these will only be used as a last resort.

You have the right to be informed prior to any pesticide application that might be needed in your children's school. In an emergency, pesticides may be applied without prior notice, but you will be provided notice following any such application. To receive notification, please complete the following information.

Should you have any questions or concerns about pest management within your children's school, please contact Nathan McCormick, Manager of Custodial/Grounds Operations Department at 771 - 3010. Thank you for helping us with this matter.

Please cut here and return bottom portion

Please fill out the following and return it to your child's school:

School _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Child's Name _____

Address _____

Home phone _____ **Work phone** _____

Please select the appropriate response.

Yes, I do wish to be notified of any pesticide applications at my children's school. _____

No, I do not wish to be notified of any pesticide application at my children's school. _____

Parent signature _____ Date _____

Please report any change of schools to the operations office 771 - 3010. Thank You

November 7, 1995

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The Grand Rapids Public Schools' Integrated Pest Management Office has been managing a pest concern at your child's school. The district has used various techniques and tools to try to manage the concern but satisfactory control has not been obtained. The District is notifying you that a pesticide application is necessary at this time. The controlled, spot application(s) will be applied as described below:

School _____

Date of application _____

Room(s) to be treated _____

Description of treatment _____

Should you require any further information please contact Bob Stoddard or Tim Barcheski at the District's Integrated Pest Management Office at 771-3054. This number is accessible 24 hours a day; please leave your name and number and we will return your call. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

GRPS Integrated Pest Management Office