

II. Administration

E. Risk Management

1. Pesticide Applications at RIASC Schools

a. School Pest Management

PESTS

It is the policy of the Narragansett School System to control pests in the school environment. Pests such as cockroaches, fleas, fire ants, stinging wasps, termites, and rodents are annoying and can disrupt the learning environment in schools. Additionally, pests are known to bite, sting, or transmit diseases, and may also cause allergic responses.

PEST MANAGEMENT

It is the policy of the Narragansett School System to reduce exposure to pesticides in the school environment. When pesticides are used to control pests in schools, there is potential for human exposure. Excessive exposure may result in pesticide poisoning or allergic responses in sensitive individuals. Children may be more susceptible to pesticides than adults due to their smaller size and rapid growth and development. Their playful behavior may expose them to more pesticide residues.

1. The Narragansett School System is committed to controlling pests in the school environment in order to:
 - Reduce any potential human health hazard to protect against a significant threat to public safety.
 - Prevent loss or damage to school resources, structures, or property.
 - Prevent pests from spreading in the community, or to plant and animal populations beyond the school site.
 - Enhance the quality of life for students, staff, and others.
2. The level of pest control and the method of pest management to be considered are as follows:
 - Non-chemical prevention of pest populations using methods such as sanitation, exclusion, and cultural methods (e.g., getting food out of the classroom, moving breakfast programs to the cafeteria).
 - Application of pesticides only “as needed” to correct verified problems.
 - Selecting the least hazardous methods and materials effective for control of targeted pests.
 - Precision targeting of pesticides to areas not in contact with, or accessible to, the children, faculty, and staff.
3. Limiting the need for pesticide applications and reducing the exposures of children to pesticide residues is best accomplished through Integrated Pest Management (IPM). The success of IPM in schools is dependent upon:

School Pest Management (continued)

- Full cooperation of administrators, faculty, maintenance/custodial staff, parents, and students.
- Coordination of the IPM program and maintenance of pest management records by the IPM coordinator or school designee.
- School Improvement Team Committee being informed of the pest problem, the actions taken to date, and the current need for pesticide applications.
- Incorporation of pesticide storage, use, disposal, and practices into the existing chemical hygiene plan by the IPM coordinator or school designee.
- Oversight of all pesticide applications to ensure adherence with the school's pest management policies by the IPM coordinator/school designee.

IMPLEMENTATION OF A DISTRICT AND SCHOOL POLICY

IPM procedures will determine when to control pests, and whether to use physical, cultural, or biological means, noting that chemical controls should be used as a last resort. IPM practitioners should depend on current, comprehensive information on the pest and its environment and the best available pest control methods. Consideration of IPM principles should prevent unacceptable levels of pest activity and damage. These principles should be based upon the most economical means and with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment.

The policy should address the following components of an IPM Program:

1. Monitoring and Action Thresholds -- Checking for pests, damage, or other evidence of infestation, which will enable selection of the most appropriate pest control procedures.
2. Safety -- Incorporation of various pest control techniques such as sanitation, exclusion, monitoring traps, etc. to minimize the impact on occupants and other non-target organisms.
3. Education/Communication -- Provide the necessary outreach and training to ensure that the staff has an understanding of the basic concepts of the IPM program and the role each plays.
4. Recordkeeping and Reporting -- Provides essential information in determining the effectiveness of pest control procedures.
5. Non-Pesticidal Control -- Incorporates all pest control procedures that prevent pest problems.
6. Pesticidal Control -- When it is necessary to use a pesticide, then the least hazardous pesticide will be chosen. The application of such pesticides must be used in accordance with their label and shall be subject to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, the Rhode Island Pesticide Control Act and all pertinent state and federal rules and regulations, as well as school policies and procedures and applicable Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations.

School Pest Management (continued)

7. Pesticide Applicators -- Pesticide applicators must be educated and trained in the principles and practices of IPM and the use of pesticides registered by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management. Pesticide training will involve attending the two day URI/DEM Health Environmental and Pesticide Safety Education Training and passing the pesticide applicators examination in order to be eligible for a Commercial Applicator's License. In order to obtain a Commercial Applicators Certification, the applicant must attend additional training in addition to the two day training in the area of pest control to be certified and pass the category examination.

In adherence with the Rhode Island Pesticide Control Act §23-25-37, the Narragansett School System shall only allow pesticide applications to be performed either by school staff holding a valid Commercial Pesticide License or certification or contract with a pest control company, whose employees are licensed or certified to perform pest control services.

Pesticide applicators must follow all State and Federal Pesticide Statutes and Regulations and follow all applicable label instructions and precautions.

8. Scheduling -- In adherence with the Rhode Island Pesticide Control Act, no pesticide shall be applied within any building or on the grounds of any school during regular school hours or during planned activities at any school, except for an emergency application to eliminate an immediate threat to human health.
9. Program Evaluation/Quality Assurance -- Pest control programs shall be reviewed periodically to determine effectiveness and to identify aspects requiring modifications.

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Narragansett School System
Narragansett, Rhode Island