

# **Integrated Pest Management Policy Statement**

## **GRUVER 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 Gruver 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.