Wyoming Integrated Pest Management Policy Statement

School District _____ recognizes that maintenance of a safe, clean and healthful environment for students and staff is essential to learning.

Pests can pose significant problems to people, property, and the environment. The pro-active use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) reduces both pests and pesticide risks with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment. Children have a higher potential for asthma from pest debris and pesticide poisoning than adults. It is the policy of the district to focus and develop long-term pest prevention methods.

This policy is based on IPM. It does not prohibit pesticide use. IPM does not exclude the use of pesticides, but it does encourage minimizing their use and using those that pose the least hazard. It is the goal of this District to provide safe, effective, and economically feasible pest control while protecting students, staff, the environment, and District property.

Defining IPM

Integrated Pest Management is a pest management strategy that focuses on long-term prevention or suppression of pest problems through a combination of techniques such as monitoring for pest presence, regular inspections and establishing treatment threshold levels, using non-chemical practices to make the habitat less conducive to pest development, improving sanitation,

and employing mechanical and physical controls. 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 law.

Elements this Policy

- Identifying and monitoring pests to determine pest population levels and identify decisions and practices that could affect pest populations.
- Setting of action levels to determine when vegetation or a pest population at a specific site cause(s) unacceptable economic or medical damage wherein corrective action should be taken.
- Modifying and/or eliminating pest habitats to deter pest populations and minimize pest infestations.
- Considering use of a range of potential treatments for the pest problem, including physical, horticultural, and biological methods of pest control.
- Using chemical controls that pose the least possible hazard to people and the environment.

School IPM Objectives

Pests will be controlled to protect the health and safety of the students and staff, to maintain a productive learning environment, to maintain the integrity of the school buildings and grounds and to prevent pests from spreading beyond school property. While pesticides are not the first line of defense against pests, they will be used judiciously and with particular focus on student's safety in mind.

The Key Components

The key components of School IPM are; Pest Identification, Prevention, Maps, Recordkeeping, Set Action Thresholds, Monitoring, Analyze and Choose Options, Notification, Implementation/Action, Evaluating, and Educating.

Monitoring

District personnel or their agents will periodically inspect buildings and grounds to inventory conditions that could lead to pest problems. District

personnel or their agents will also monitor key pest populations to determine if, and when, they should be treated. Records of inspection activities will be used to determine optimum times to control pests. Monitoring will continue after treatment in order to evaluate effectiveness.

Record keeping

Records serve as the memory and planning tool of an IPM program. Records of pest control activities including application records shall be maintained on site to meet the requirements of the state regulatory agency. Records shall also include, but are not limited to, pest surveillance data sheets and other non-pesticide pest management methods and practices utilized.

These records include remedial actions taken, evaluation and notes regarding how to prevent the same pests in the future. There will be a notebook/folder for individual areas within the district, such as, a group of buildings, grounds divided as the manager see fit.

Since records are an integral part of IPM, pest control activity is never finished until information is entered into the Pest Control Activity Log which will be filed by date. A copy of the current product label and Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for each pesticide will be kept on file in the same location as the IPM records.

Notification

The Wyoming Environmental Pesticide Control Act of 1973 requires notice be provided by school districts not less than seventy-two hours prior to herbicide application on school property and the district shall further notify students, teachers and staff. All notices distributed under this subsection shall be marked with a distribution date and include information indicating date of application, location of application or treatment area, pest to be controlled, name and type of pesticide to be applied and a contact for additional information. All notices distributed under this subsection shall be retained by the school or school district for two years. Additionally, the licensed commercial applicator or other school employee applying pesticides shall post signs on the school building or property stating the date of application, the location of the application or treatment area, the name and type of the pesticide to be applied and a contact for additional information. Upon request, the licensed commercial applicator or other school employee shall provide information on how to obtain additional information on the pesticide.

Not less than twelve hours before application of pesticides within school buildings, signs shall be posted at main entrances to school buildings and at the entrances to the specific application area within buildings. If pesticide application is made outdoors to any area adjacent to a school building or on property used by the district for student activities or playgrounds, signs shall be posted immediately adjacent to the treated area and at the entrance to the district property. The signs shall remain posted for seventy-two hours. Re-entry to a pesticide treated area shall conform to the requirements of the product label. All applicable rules and regulations regarding notification will be adhered to.

Training

IPM personnel (school employees and contractors) depend on current, comprehensive information on the pest and its environment and the best available pest control methods. It is in the best interest of the schools and those they serve to have trained applicators.

The facilities director (or his appointee) is the integrated pest management coordinator. The facilities director may call upon the State School IPM Specialist for training in the district as needed. The IPM coordinator shall ensure that applicators follow state regulations, including licensing requirements and label precautions, and understand the School IPM Plan.

Any person applying pesticides in school buildings or on school grounds must be licensed by the state to apply pesticides and will be trained and knowledgeable in the principles and practices of IPM. Applicators must follow state regulations and label precautions and must comply with the School IPM Policy and pest management site plans.

Other interested staff and community members are welcome to take IPM training to strengthen an understanding of IPM in schools. Students, parents/guardians will be instructed on how they can contribute to the success of the IPM program.

Pesticide storage and purchase

Pesticide purchases will be limited to the amount that is safe to store 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.

Evaluation

An integral step in IPM is to evaluate and record how well the method or actions worked and what happened. Understanding the effectiveness of the IPM program allows the facilities director to make modifications to the IPM plan prior to pests reaching the action threshold and requiring action again. Evaluation is built into on-going landscape monitoring shows where there is need for improvement and helps fine-tune future actions.