

Policy

Egg Harbor Township Board of Education

7411

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

The Egg Harbor Township Board of Education to seek and minimize exposure to students, faculty, and other staff and visitors to pesticides and herbicides. Routine pesticide and herbicide application may create ambient levels of toxic chemicals which are hazardous for building occupants and grounds playing field users, particularly children. Integrated Pest Management is the coordinated use of pest and environmental information with a combination of available pest control methods to manage pest damage by the most economical means, and with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment. Lawn care without toxic chemicals involves monitoring the lawn, proper mowing, proper fertilization, use of proper varieties of grass, soil aeration, thatch removal, and watering. The Egg Harbor Township Board shall use Integrated Pest Management as the pest control strategy to be employed in the maintenance of its facilities, grounds and playing fields.

Structural and landscape pests can pose significant problems to people, property, and the environment. Pesticides can also pose significant risks to people, property, and the environment if used indiscriminately. It is therefore the policy of the Egg Harbor Township Board to adopt and utilize Integrated Pest Management procedures for the control of structural and landscape pests in the Egg Harbor Township Schools and grounds.

Pests

Pests will be managed to:

1. Reduce any potential human health hazard or to protect against a significant threat to public safety;
2. Prevent loss or damage to school structures or property;
3. Prevent pests from spreading in the community or to plant and animal populations beyond the site;
4. Enhance the quality of life standards for students, staff, and others.

Integrated Pest Management Procedures

Integrated Pest Management procedures will determine when to control pests and whether to use mechanical, physical, chemical, cultural, or biological methods. Applying Integrated Pest Management principles prevents unacceptable levels of pest damage by the most economical means and with the least possible hazard to people, property, and

the environment. The Integrated Pest Management program will include identification of problem areas and targeted monitoring for pests if an infestation is confirmed. Preventive measures such as good sanitation and caulking, screening, sealing, plumbing, and pruning will be emphasized.

The choice of using pesticide will be based on a review of all other available options and a determination that these options are not acceptable or feasible. Costs or staffing considerations alone will not be adequate justification for the use of chemical control agents, and selected non-chemical pest management methods will be implemented whenever possible. It is the policy of the Egg Harbor Township Board to utilize Integrated Pest Management principles to manage pest populations adequately. The full range of alternative, including no action, will be considered.

When it is determined that a pesticide must be used in order to meet management goals, the least hazardous material will be chosen. The smallest effective amount of pesticide will be applied in the most limited area. Organophosphate, carbamate, and solvent-based pesticides will not be used without the written permission of the School Superintendent or his authorized representative. The application of such pesticides is subject to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, NJ Department of Environmental Protection regulations, Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations, and Local regulations.

Education

Staff, students, pest managers and the public will be educated about potential school pest problems and the Integrated Pest Management policies and procedures to be used to achieve the desired pest management objectives.

Record Keeping

Records of pesticide use shall be maintained on site to meet the requirements of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). Records must be accurate if Integrated Pest Management is to work. Additionally, pest surveillance data sheets which record the numbers of pests or other indicators of pest populations are to be maintained to verify the need for treatment.

Notification

The Egg Harbor Township Board takes the responsibility to notify students, parent(s)/legal guardian(s), and the school staff of upcoming pesticide treatments. Notices will be posted at school and sent home with students.

Adopted: 10/22/2002