

MOUNT PLEASANT COTTAGE SCHOOL UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT**SUBJECT: PEST MANAGEMENT AND PESTICIDE USE**

Pesticide alternatives will be used on school grounds and in areas where children play whenever possible. School districts shall not apply pesticide to any playgrounds, turf, athletic or playing fields. These types of pesticides and alternatives are allowable on playing fields and playgrounds, per federal regulations:

- 1) Anti-microbial pesticides and products;
- 2) Aerosol products with a directed spray in containers of eighteen (18) fluid ounces or less when used to protect individuals from an imminent threat from stinging and biting insects, including venous spiders, bees, wasps and hornets;
- 3) Non-volatile insect or rodent bait in tamper resistant containers;
- 4) Boric acid and disodium octaborate tetrahydrate;
- 5) Pesticides classified as exempt materials by the Environmental Protection Agency under forty (40) CFR Part 152.25. These products are also known as minimum risk pesticides and may be labeled as such. Their ingredients have been shown to be demonstrably safe;
- 6) Horticultural soaps and oils that do not contain synthetic pesticides or synergists.

Emergency Applications

An exception may be made for emergency applications of pesticide only when approved in advance by the School Board. For advice on determining an emergency situation, the board may consult with the local Health Department, on public health situations and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for environmental situations. Emergency determinations should be sought and granted only for a one time pesticide application for a specific situation which presents a true emergency. To further clarify, the following are not considered to warrant an emergency application:

- 1) When the problem can be managed with allowed products and/or alternative pest management methods, even when it takes time for district staff to learn and fully practice pesticide alternatives;
- 2) For routine or repetitive pest problems. Pest problems can occur on a regular or seasonal basis, but they do not usually rise to the level of a public health or environmental threat that constitutes an emergency;

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- 3) When the application is for purely aesthetic reasons.

Pesticide Storage and Purchase

Pesticide purchases will be limited to the amount authorized for use during the year. Pesticides will be stored and disposed of in accordance with the EPA-registered label directions and state or local regulations. Pesticides must be stored in a secure site, not accessible to students or unauthorized personnel. A cabinet in a non-student area with a locked and labeled door is advised. The door label should include a skull and crossbones, Mr. Ugh or other visual signals for non-English reading adults or children. Pesticide alternatives and those deemed safe by federal regulations will be stored in the same cabinet or one similarly marked and secured.

Pesticide Applicators

Any person applying pesticides on school grounds must be certified, licensed, trained and knowledgeable in the principles and practices of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Any use of pesticides must be approved by the IPM Coordinator and Superintendent of Schools. Applicators must follow state regulations and label precautions along with the School IPM policy and Pest/Pesticide Management Plan.

Pesticide Labeling and Usage

Law requires that precautionary statements and signal words be included on all pesticide labels. The signal words indicate the level of acute or immediate toxicity to humans. If none of the signal words or warnings listed below are provided, do not use the pesticide.

- 1) **DANGER:** a taste to a teaspoon taken by mouth could kill an average size adult.
- 2) **WARNING:** a teaspoon to an ounce taken by mouth could kill an average size adult.
- 3) **CAUTION:** an ounce to a pint taken by mouth could kill an average size adult.

Note that these warnings are expressed as amounts taken by mouth. However, most actual exposure is through skin and lungs. Thus, this system is not sufficient to guarantee safety - it is only an indicator. Materials with the DANGER label should NEVER be used near children. Those labeled WARNING should only be used rarely on pests for which no CAUTION materials are available. These pesticides should only be used in areas on school grounds where students do not play, therefore their use is rather limited. Their usage on common areas where children gather and play is restricted to emergency applications approved in advance by the local Health Department, Department of Environmental Conservation or the School Board in rare situations when no healthy or acceptable alternatives are available.

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SUBJECT: PEST MANAGEMENT AND PESTICIDE USE (Cont'd.)

Pesticide alternatives and those listed above as deemed safe by federal regulation are the only substances to be used on playgrounds, turf, athletic and playing fields.

Notification

The District's IPM Coordinator or designated Pesticide Representative will give prior written notice of all pesticide applications to anyone who has asked to receive such notice. The District will also annually notify parents, students and staff of periodic pesticide applications. Written notification will be provided to parents, guardians and staff three (3) times each year to inform them of any pesticide applications that have occurred. Notification must take place:

- 1) Within ten (10) days of the end of the school year;
- 2) Within two (2) school days of the end of winter recess; and
- 3) Within two (2) school days of the end of spring recess.

Notifications must include the following information for the period since the previous notice:

- 1) Dates and locations of pesticide applications;
- 2) The products used for each application which required prior notification;
- 3) Information on emergency applications; and
- 4) A reminder that persons may add their names to the forty-eight (48) hour notification registry.

The District will also post a notice at the entrance to all school buildings to inform those not in the forty-eight (48) hour registry.

The District will maintain a list of those people who wish to receive forty-eight (48) hour notice before pesticide applications and will ensure that a system is developed to deliver such notice in a timely fashion to all affected. The notification system may be by mail or email, and will ensure that a back-up method is available to notify those for whom the regular system is unworkable. The name and contact information for the District Pesticide Representative will be made available to all requesting it.

Sample forms for forty-eight (48) hour prior notification can be obtained at:

http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/facplan/documents/PesticideNeighborNotificationGuidelineforSchools_091001.pdf

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SUBJECT: PEST MANAGEMENT AND PESTICIDE USE (Cont'd.)**Recordkeeping**

Records of pesticide use will be maintained on site for three (3) years. Records will be completed on the day of pesticide use. In addition, pest surveillance records will be maintained to help verify the need for pesticide treatments.

Fertilizer Use

The use of phosphorus-containing lawn fertilizer is prohibited on school grounds. Exceptions can be made for its use if tests show the lawn is lacking phosphorus or there a new lawn is being established. Other fertilizer restrictions will:

- 1) Prohibit the application of any lawn fertilizer between December 1 and April 1;
- 2) Prohibit the application of fertilizer on impervious surfaces and require the pick-up of any fertilizer applied or spilled onto impervious surfaces; and
- 3) Prohibit the application of fertilizer within twenty (20) feet of any surface water, except where there is a vegetative buffer of at least ten (10) feet, or where the fertilizer is applied by a device with a spreader guard, deflector shield or drop spreader at least three (3) feet from the surface water.