

School Pest Control Policy

PPA 699 Public Policy Development

SCHOOL PEST CONTROL POLICY

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Problem

Both the pests and the pesticides used to control them can be hazardous to human life and environment. Children are the most vulnerable to the risks associated with the exposure to pesticides than adults. Besides, they are known to have higher respiratory rate and eat more frequently than adults. Their tendency of sprawling and eating anything from the ground is wanting. With all these biological and cultural differences, kids can easily be subjects of pesticides poisoning than adults. This policy is intended to analyze how to manage pest efficiently while ensuring that the applied methods do not expose people to poisoning in a school environment. This proactive policy will manage pest more efficiently rather than using the predominant means of using pesticides (Phillips, 2005). The plan will apply various procedures to control both structural and landscape pests. The systems are as detailed in the rationale of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program.

The duties of the IPM system are as follows;

- Determining various species of pests and their natural predators
- Assessment of the growing populations of the pests and the predators
- Using the most non-toxic and biological methods to control pests
- Record keeping of the best remedial actions to be taken in different places depending on the nature of the place and the type of pests.

What is a pest?

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A pest is anything that causes infection to the human being and attacks crops and livestock among many other constituents of the environment. They include arthropods like mites and ticks, nuisance birds like weaverbird and many other undesirable organisms.

IPM Procedures

IPM is an environmentally friendly approach that relies on the application of common sense in the process of pest management. It depends on the comprehensive information about the life cycles of various pests to come with the best methods of controlling pests. According to Richardson (2008), the information helps in controlling the pests most economically and posing least possible threats to people and the environment.

Their approach also uses the understanding of survival needs of the pests thus being able to manage them. For instance, pests seek habitats, which must provide basic needs for sustaining life. Therefore, they can be controlled by creating an environment that lacks their necessities. In Lisowski (2007), it states such situation can be achieved by withdrawing the basic needs from their places or blocking them from accessing there.

Policy statement

The management of the school is committed to ensuring that the school environment is conducive to the children and staffs. It seeks to prevent exposure of children to pests and the pesticides. It has therefore adopted the approach used by the Integrated Pest Management. These procedures have proved to minimize the exposure of the school fraternity to the problems mentioned. While there may be the application of pesticides in control of pests, it is less toxic chemicals that will be accepted.

Pest Management

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The aims of the pests' management are:

- Protect children and the staff from being exposed to health hazards
- Protect school property from being damaged by pests
- Prevent the pests from spreading to animals in the school

Education

Both the teaching staff, non-teaching staff, students and the public will be educated the current Pests' problem and the appropriate measures that have been adopted through the knowledge of integrated pests' management approach.

Record keeping

Records that will be kept include:

- Number of pests species that are within the school environment
- Indicators of continued spread of pests after treatment
- Records of any pesticide used at any given time
- Records of the areas with the highest number of pesticides
- The prevalence of specific species in the school environment

The objective of keeping these records is for evaluating the effectiveness of a given methods and adjust appropriately. Need for improvement or maintaining of a given method is dependent on the report of the records.

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Notification

The school administration will take responsibility for notifying the students and parents on the upcoming treatments, which may involve pesticides. Various notices will be printed and posted in various places within and outside the school. The students will also be sent home with notices in the form of a printed card.

Pesticide Storage and Purchase

If need be, purchases will be done in limited amounts that can be used for a specific treatment. Besides, the storage and disposal will be done following the existing policies of local regulations. A cabinet will be explicitly designed for storage of the pesticides before and after use. The cabinet must be labeled with a sign indicating danger for the sake of those who do not know how to read (Phillips, 2005).

Pesticide Applicators

These are people tasked with the role of handling pesticides within the school. They will be educated and trained by specialists from pesticides suppliers. The supplier must be an authorized and certified dealer in the field of pesticides. Under no single circumstance should applications of pesticides be done in the school while learning is in progress.

Statewide application

The policy applies the rational model of policy making because it gives alternatives to the administration and the public to solve health threat. The model needs to be adopted by all schools since most of them are faced with similar challenges. The prevalence of pesticides poisoning is much common in many schools. It's also because a worth public disaster.

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Therefore, the government should endeavor making this a law for to help in solving the problem.

The objection to this is inevitable but they are nullified by the magnitude of the problem.

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References

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