

Pest Management Program

Orange County Schools (OCS) has adopted an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policy for managing insect and rodent intruders at our schools. IPM is a holistic, preventive approach to managing such pests. IPM minimizes pesticide use in our schools and on school grounds. For the last five years OCS has concentrated on removing pest habitats from schools rather than using pesticides for pest management. For the purpose of this notification, pesticides fall into two (2) categories:

- "exempt" pesticides are relatively low risk/non-toxic
- "non-exempt" pesticides are relatively higher risk/toxicity.

As of August 1, 2005, "non-exempt" pesticides are NOT used inside any OCS building. We are among the first school systems in North Carolina to achieve this level of "green" pest management.

OCS is required under the adopted "School Children's Health Act" [(NCGS 115C - 47 (45) (a)] to notify all students' parents, guardians, and custodians as well as school staff of the schedule of "non-exempt" pesticide use in and on OCS property. Further, the statute requires OCS make available any updates to the schedule upon request.

Notification of Pesticide Use: On occasion our IPM staff may find it necessary to use "Non Exempt" pesticides to control outdoor insect pests at your school or at another school system site such as a maintenance shop. North Carolina state law gives you the right to be notified:

1. annually of our IPM Program's pesticide application schedule or system for scheduling applications of "Non Exempt" pesticides
2. 72 hours in advance, provide you notice of IPM pesticide applications made outside any schedule

The latter will only occur if you request notification ahead of time using the "Request for Notification" form that accompanies this letter. Please remember that if you request any advance notice be made to you via US Postal Service, it is possible the Postal Service may not deliver your notice within 72 hours of our timely mailing such notice. Notice requests asking for delivery via email require correct and/or current email addresses in order for any emailed notice to be timely delivered.

Exemptions: The same law that mandates notification also exempts certain relatively low-risk pesticide usages from its notification requirements. The relatively low risk "Exempt From Notice" pesticides include antimicrobial cleansers, disinfectants, self-contained baits, crack-and-crevice treatments, and any pesticide products classified by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as belonging to the US EPA's Toxicity Class IV ("relatively nontoxic"). Your

right to be notified extends to Non-Exempt IPM pesticide applications at your school or other non-school site (office building, garage, workshop, etc.). Your right includes both indoor and outdoor pesticide applications and includes applications that take place over summer recess, holidays, weekends, or after school hours. Because the relatively low risk "Exempt From Notice" pesticides are all that the IPM staff uses inside OCS school buildings, any Non-Exempt pesticides used by the IPM Program are only used outside. This means notices you may receive under your request will relate to outdoor insect control. Such insects include wasps, hornets, and fire ants.

Emergency Pesticide Use: In the event that a Non-Exempt pesticide must be used for a pest control emergency at your school or other site and there is not adequate time to notify you more than 72 hours in advance, and you have requested advance notice, you will receive a notice of emergency pesticide application less than 72 hours before, or as soon as possible after the pesticide application.

The Environmental Health and Safety Office has prepared an annual "Notification" and "Request for Notification (of future updates)" documents to comply with statute-specific guidelines.

Questions about the IPM Policy and its
implementation
Contact Frank Meadows
Environmental Health and Safety Office
(919) 732-4581 x14003