

Safety Newsletter



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INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM)

Did you know there is a new mandated training requirement for any school employees who use pesticides? This requirement is tied to SB 1405 which states all school IPM coordinators and any school employee who may apply a pesticide at a school or child care center, must take a training approved by the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR). Beginning July 1, 2016 anyone using a pesticide at a school or child care center needs to have training prior to pesticide application.

The DPR defines pesticides as chemicals designed to be harmful to a target pest and purposely introduced into the environment to do their job of managing insects, bacteria, weeds, rodents or other pests. **Pesticides include, but is not limited to disinfecting wipes, surface sanitizers, and weed-killers.** Employees and unlicensed individuals using pesticides at a school or child care center must take a training course each year. A course must be approved by DPR and must meet the training requirements as outlined in the Healthy Schools Act (HSA).

The HSA aims to reduce and/or eliminate the use of pesticides in schools which can be harmful to young children. Pesticide application can be reduced and even eliminated by using IPM to manage the pests in the facilities. Here are some tips that may help make your schools and child care centers a pest free and pesticide free zone: **Consider non-chemical control** methods for your pests like essential oils. Here are some bugs and ways to control them

- **Ants:** Peppermint, spearmint, garlic, citronella, orange, cedar wood are all green methods of killing ants but may not be accessible or useful to you in your workplace. When you spray a pesticide to kill ants, you are only killing the ants that you see and doing nothing to address the thousands of ants in the colony. Use sealed bait traps, like Terro Liquid Ant Bait[®]. Place the bait at the entry site on a Friday afternoon. The ants will take the bait back to the nest and destroy the colony. When you come back on Monday morning – wrap the used bait in a paper towel and dispose in the trash. Remember to retreat in about 30 days to address any eggs that may have hatched.
- **Fleas:** Lavender, lemongrass, peppermint, cedar wood, citronella, tansy, orange.
- **Head Lice:** Lavender, tea tree, geranium, spearmint, peppermint, pine, thyme, orange, rosemary, cedar wood.
- **Roaches:** Roaches leave droppings and body parts which can trigger asthma in many individuals. Seal up cracks and crevices under the sink and around the pipe inlets. Use a caulking or expanding foam. This will keep the roaches from coming in through the cracks and crevices.



Clean-up and take out the trash. Pests are attracted to garbage and food that is left out and readily accessible.

- **Ensure trash is taken out** at the end of each day. Also, wash the trash cans if there is any residue left behind from spilled drinks or food.
- **Keep food out** of the classroom and office workstations. Try storing your lunch and snacks in the employee breakrooms. If food must be stored in workspaces, place food in air tight sealed containers like Tupperware or other plastic containers.
- **Keep art supplies in closed containers.** Materials like macaroni, cardboard, and other items used in art projects attract pests. Eliminate the storage of these articles and purchase only what can be used up for that project.

Avoid clutter. Pests love to hide. Remove the clutter. Exposure will encourage pests to leave and find a different area to hide and brough.

- Remove cardboard from the classroom. Cardboard is made with a soy based, sweet tasting-to-bugs glue. Cardboard attracts ants and cockroaches. Store classroom materials in containers with plastic lids. This will go a long way toward eliminating the presence of bugs in the classroom.

Avoid excessive use of disinfectants and surface sanitizers. Some disinfectants require 5-10 minutes of surface contact time to kill the germs/viruses. That means that the surface must remain wet with the sanitizer for 5 minutes!!! If the disinfectant or sanitizer dries before that time, no germs or viruses have been eliminated, and you have only introduced a chemical into the environment that can make your kids sick and did nothing to actually kill germs. Be mindful before application:

- **Not all surfaces need to be disinfected.** Try cleaning versus disinfecting. Studies have shown that microfiber towels can remove up to 99% of germs with just water. Using microfiber towels on areas like desks, door knobs, and telephones throughout the day is just as good, if not better, because pesticides are not being used. Cleaning removes over 99% of germs. Dirty surfaces actually reduce the effectiveness of any sanitizers that you do use. So, you will be more efficient, save time and money, and prevent pesticide exposure to you and others in your work area.
- **Never let students use or handle disinfecting or sanitizing wipes.** Children have excessive hand-to-mouth behavior and can be impacted by exposure to these pesticides. This can result in significant health effects and both acute and chronic symptoms in students.
- **Do not bring pesticides from home.** All pesticide use must be posted at the entrance to the school 24 hours prior to use and remain in place for 72 hours



after the application. Home use pesticides may not be listed in the District's IPM plan and may contain toxic levels of banned chemicals.

- **Check out the District's IPM plan.** It can be located on your school district's webpage and is updated annually.

For more information on SB 1405, check out http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140SB1405 For access to the Department of Regulation please visit their website at <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/> Register for free training and access DPR-approved training online by visiting <http://www.cce.csus.edu/form/departement-pesticide-regulation>

CHILD SAFETY PLAN FOR REPORTING AND PREVENTING ABUSE

According to the National Children's Alliance the 2013 National Abuse Statistics show over 670,000 children were victims of abuse and neglect. Of the children who experienced maltreatment or abuse, about 80% suffered neglect, 18% suffered physical abuse; and 9% suffered sexual abuse. Of the fatalities reported as a result of abuse and neglect, roughly 80% were caused by one or more of the child's parents.

All school employees are required to receive Mandated Reporter training to recognize signs, symptoms of child abuse, and to know the proper procedure on how to submit a report. Every child deserves a safe environment which encourages positive growth emotionally and physically. Your school District has a Child Safety Plan in place for child abuse reporting. It may be time for you to review and discuss the needs of your students and the school district. Your school plan must address recognition of and reporting of abuse and neglect. 11% of teachers reported that they would be reluctant to report abuse perpetrated by a fellow teacher. Research shows that nearly 10% of students surveyed say they were sexually abused at school – that is almost 4.5 million U.S. students.

Training

- Make sure you understand the responsibilities under the law as a Mandated Reporter. Learn to recognize the signs and symptoms of child abuse and neglect. Understand the reporting requirements.
- Test your knowledge by accessing the online training information at <http://mandatedreporterca.com> or visit the Attorney Generals website at <http://ag.ca.gov/childabuse> Make sure you understand what to look for and how to report.
- Speak to a Principal or experienced staff member who has been through the process below. You are not violating confidentiality if you are seeking assistance and guidance in the reporting process
- Facilitate a discussion regarding the topic as an agenda item during a staff meeting. Encourage group question and answers and discuss hypothetical situations. This should occur in addition to the staff annual trainings on mandated reporter.



- There is a zero tolerance policy on child abuse and student sexual harassment.
- There are disciplinary actions for employees who do not follow policy. Failure to report may result in loss of employment, 6 months in jail, \$1,000 fine, and leave you open to civil liability.

Remember, if you have Reasonable Suspicion that child abuse is occurring, you are required to report it. Learn the indicators – both physical and behavioral to assist you in the identification process.

It is always better to report than not to report.

For information on the National Children's Alliance please visit their website at <http://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/>

ONLINE SAFETY -- SPAM & PHISHING

Cybercriminals have become quite savvy in their attempts to lure people in and get you to click on a link or open an attachment. The email they send can look just like it comes from a financial institution, e-commerce site, government agency or any other service or business. It often urges you to act quickly, because your account has been compromised, your order cannot be fulfilled or that you have been selected for a prize.



Avoid Being a Victim

- **Don't reveal personal or financial information in an email**, and do not respond to email solicitations for this information. Do not follow includes links sent in these email solicitations. Don't send sensitive information over email.
- **Pay attention to the website's URL.** Malicious websites may look identical to a legitimate site, but the URL may use a variation in spelling or a different domain (e.g., .com versus .net).
- **Report it to your District's IT Department**, including network administrators. They are on the alert for any suspicious or unusual activity and work hard to protect your Districts cybersecurity.
- If you believe your financial accounts may be compromised, **contact your financial institution immediately** and close the account(s). Watch for any unauthorized charges to your account.
- **When in doubt, throw it out:** Links in email, tweets, posts and online advertising are often ways cybercriminals try to compromise your information. If it looks suspicious, it's best to delete.
- **Think before you act:** Be wary of communications that tell you to act immediately, offers that sound too good to be true, or ask for personal information.
- **Make your password strong:** A strong password is a unique string that is at least 12 characters long.
- **Unique account, unique password:** Having separate passwords for every account helps to thwart cybercriminals. At a minimum, separate your work and personal accounts and make sure that your critical accounts have the strongest passwords. Never give out your password!
- **Get two steps ahead:** Turn on two-step authentication – also known as or multi-factor authentication – on accounts where available.