IPM

By this point in time, those three letters have become very familiar within the boundaries of the Salt Lake City School District. Administrators, principals, district supervisors, custodians, maintenance, and cafeteria personnel all know that IPM is an abbreviation for Integrated Pest Management and are becoming used to the program. Many teachers and some students are also familiar with the program, and for those that are not, well that is our ongoing mission – to educate everyone in the District.

What is IPM?

For those that have not yet heard of the Integrated Pest Management program, it could best be described in layman’s terms as “a way to handle pest problems without the use of pesticides or if a pesticide absolutely must be used – to use the safest pesticide possible and in the safest manner possible”.

What IPM is not!

IPM is not a fad or a fad program! Any one that has been employed by any given school district, business, or organization for a number of years has seen a multitude of programs come and go. This is especially true for school districts, and primarily due to the nature of our business – children. When children are part of any type of business; school officials, the government, political activists, parents and school groups, and various other concerned community members will have a strong desire for student safety.

The good news is that the IPM program promotes student and staff safety by greatly decreasing their chance of becoming afflicted by a chemical pesticide exposure.

So why IPM or What’s the big deal?

Some pesticides commonly used and/or the improper use of pesticides in schools have been linked to asthma, childhood leukemia, learning disabilities (such as ADHD), and may have a negative impact on human health affecting the respiratory system, nervous system and the reproductive system. Do you want to learn more? Do a computer search and type in any of the following key words: chemical, pesticide, exposures, children, and/or schools. Associate these key words with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and/or Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA), and you will be surprised at the amount of information regarding health related pesticide risks.

IPM on the National Level

Integrated Pest Management is serious business especially in the school environment. Parents are becoming more concerned for their children’s health as people as a whole are becoming more health and chemical conscience across the nation. IPM in schools on a nation wide level is growing. Consider the following facts on state school pest management requirements across the nation

State School Pest Management

Requirements as of October 20, 2006

- 27 states are required to provide outdoor posting of pesticide applications.
- 17 states are required to provide indoor posting of pesticide applications.
- 22 states are required for pre-notification before a pesticide application.
- 14 states are required to post re-entry notifications or other requirements listed beyond the label for pesticide applications.
- 26 states now have minimum requirements for applicators to apply pesticides in schools.
- 19 states have an IPM law or rule for their states schools (see shaded map below).
- 4 of the 19 states that have an IPM law or rule for their states
SOME SPECIES OF INSECTS CAN DEVELOP LARGE SWARMS WHEN THEY BECOME ADULTS. THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN LOCUST WAS A MAJOR PEST IN THE UNITED STATES IN THE LATE 1800’S, BUT IT IS NOW CONSIDERED TO BE EXTINCT. AN OBSERVER IN NEBRASKA REPORTED THAT ONE SWARM AVERAGED A HALF MILE IN HEIGHT (SOME LOCUSTS WERE HIGHER THAN A MILE) AND WAS 100 MILES WIDE AND 300 MILES LONG. THE SWARM MOVED ABOUT 5 MILES AN HOUR IN THE AIR AND CONTINUED TO PASS FOR SIX HOURS. BASED ON AN ESTIMATE OF 27 LOCUSTS PER CUBIC YARD, HE CALCULATED THAT THE SWARM HAD MORE THAN 124 BILLION LOCUSTS.

WHATS BUGGING YOU.....

Can you answer these questions from the Got Birds issue Aug 2006?

- What can get into buildings through any existing openings ¼ in or larger in diameter?
- What are the three must-haves for any pest?
- What is the “dreaded” pest mentioned in this issue?

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Information taken from:

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Informational Sources:

Westerville City Schools Custodial Services department (IPM forms/records for history).

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