

Healthy Colorado Schools

Happy Thanksgiving!

SCHOOL IPM POLICY TO PROVIDE CLEAR GUIDELINES

As school IPM continues to expand in school districts across Colorado, the need for a generic school IPM policy statement has been noted by participating districts. A clear policy statement will help schools to build consensus and establish protocols about how pest control will be performed. The policy statement should include pest management objectives and goals; a set of roles and responsibilities for occupants, pest management personnel,

and key decision makers; and a set of pest management guidelines.

At the October meeting for the Colorado Coalition for School IPM (CCSIPM), the following timeline was presented for developing the template:

Nov. 4th—Establish working group (4-5 people)

Nov. 11th to Dec. 2—Distribute policies from 2 existing school districts (initially) with additional information for review.

Dec. 9th—Working group convenes to finalize draft version for presentation at Jan. 2014 CCSIPM meeting.

January 14th—Tentative CCSIPM meeting—draft template presented to group. Small working groups to finalize during the meeting.

Special points of interest:

- ✓ Developing Generic School IPM Policy
- ✓ School IPM Preventative Practices
- ✓ Wasp Spray Is Not Pepper Spray
- ✓ School Grounds IPM Workshop
- ✓ EPA Supports “Green & Healthy” Schools
- ✓ Got Mice?
- ✓ Greening Colorado Schools—A New Resource From Colorado Department of Education

For more information about or to participate in the School IPM policy working group please email [Genevieve Berry](mailto:Genevieve.Berry@state.ct.us).



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PREVENTATIVE PRACTICES ARE THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE

A lot of IPM is preventative – sealing openings, cleaning and sanitation practices. This is especially important where food is served. The U. S. Food and Drug Administration Food Code 2009 provides the administrative guidelines for physical facilities (<http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/RetailFoodProtection/FoodCode/ucm189214.htm>). They state, for example, “Floors, walls, and ceilings that are constructed of smooth and durable surface materials are more easily drained.”

Floor drains are particularly important to clean regularly. Floor drains rarely

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Cluttered floor drain. Click on [School IPM](#) for more pictures

WASP SPRAY IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR PEPPER SPRAY

Gun violence this fall at schools and colleges across the nation helps keep a contemporary legend alive. One version of the legend tells of a church receptionist working in a high risk area who kept a can of wasp spray on her desk for self-defense. The legend, usually spread by email, suggests wasp spray draws less attention than a can of pepper spray and is effective against violence.

Janet Hurley, an Extension Specialist with the School IPM program through Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, got many questions from school districts this fall. Hurley provided one example: "A school district in north Texas was inspecting its campuses at the beginning of the school year. The IPM Coordinators

kept noticing cans of wasp killer in the offices of the school secretaries. Since the school follows IPM and has a policy about only licensed applicators making pesticide applications, the coordinators began to ask questions. Apparently, the secretaries had heard from a law enforcement person who said a can of wasp killer could injure an attacker at 10 feet and therefore would be a way to keep an intruder from school."



Remember:

According to EPA, pesticide use restrictions, an individual **CANNOT** use the product for any purpose that is not on the label.

**See The Difference Between:
[Pepper Spray Vs. Wasp Spray](#)**

IPM WORKSHOP FOR SCHOOL GROUNDS THIS SPRING

The appropriate use of low risk pesticides is part of an IPM program. However we continue to hear concerns around the country about the use of pesticides on school grounds. This fall, Ball State University, Indiana cancelled plans to spray herbicides on the lawns around its K-12 school after objections from parents worried about their children's exposure to chemicals. The university planned to use Trimec 992, a 2,4-D product, but a petition started by parents helped stop the use of this herbicide.

The Colorado Coalition for School IPM is planning an IPM

workshop for school grounds this spring. Weed control and control of Emerald Ash Borer are two topics we would like to discuss. If you have suggestions for topics, venue or dates for this workshop, please contact Deb Young at deborah.young@colostate.edu.



Photo credit: Howard K. Schwartz, CSU

WHERE ARE THE MICE?



After a major disaster, like the September floods, the number of rats and mice is often reduced. The rodents that survive a disaster may move to new areas. It will take 6 months or more for them to regroup, reorganize their social behavior, become familiar with their new environment, find safe haven, locate food and water, and memorize their movements. Colony building and reproduction will begin only when their new ecosystem has stabilized.

Here are a few signs that mice have decided that your school is their new home:

Droppings: Mouse droppings are about the size of rice grains. Small, tapered fecal pellets are left in areas where the mouse feeds or is harbored. The hundreds of micro-droplets of urine that mice leave every day can be seen with a black light in an otherwise dark room.

Burrows: Check in weedy places, under boards, under dog houses and near garbage cans or dumpsters. House mice may burrow outside structures when they cannot gain access or find other shelter.

Teeth marks and chewing: Any little hole with chewed edges is a sure sign. Check your pantry for chewed packages. Look for shredded paper. Look for teeth marks and hair.

Sound: Listen for gnawing or scratching in walls or attics, especially at night.

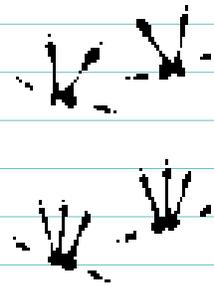
Nests: Fine, shredded fibrous materials, chewed paper or cloth (including gloves, carpet, clothes) is often found in boxes, drawers, basements or attics. Nests are frequently found when cleaning garages, closets, attics, basements, and outbuildings where mice are present.

Smudge marks (rub marks): Occur on beams, rafters, pipes, and walls. They form as a result of oil and dirt rubbing off the mouse as they travel the route.

Odor: A musty odor usually indicates mice are present.

For more information go to:

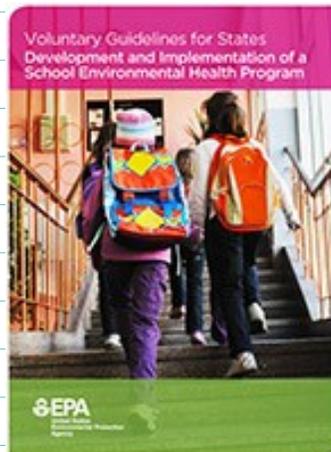
<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/rodents.asp>



EPA SUPPORTS "GREEN AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS"

EPA has created voluntary guidelines to help states establish and sustain environmental health programs for K-12 schools. An overview of the guidelines, as well as links to additional information and resources, is available online.

<http://www.epa.gov/schools/ehguidelines/>





The Colorado Coalition for School IPM is an effort by Colorado State University, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Colorado Department of Agriculture, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Colorado Department of Education, school districts, National Environmental Health Association and private pest control professionals.

For More Information About The Colorado Coalition For School IPM:

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For All The Latest News Don't Forget To Check Out Our Website/Blog at:
www.ccsipm.wordpress.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION & IPM EXAMPLES CHECK OUT THE FLICKR PHOTO SETS — EXAMPLES OF IPM PESTS & METHODS

PREVENTATIVE PRACTICES continued:

get the same attention as food contact surfaces such as display cases, refrigerators, countertops and sinks. However, Listeria and other pathogens can easily spread from floor drains to other areas on shoes, food or other objects dropped on the floor, or with the help of pests such as fruit flies, drain flies, ants or cockroaches.

Drain cleaning practices can sometimes spread pathogens through airborne droplets formed when contaminated drains are scrubbed with brushes or pads. It is important to train food service staff to minimize spread. For example, all food should be put away prior to cleaning drains, and drains should be cleaned first, before food preparation surfaces. For a good on-line resource on food safety, visit the Food Safety Magazine website at www.foodsafetymagazine.com/.

GREENING COLORADO SCHOOLS = 1 STOP GREEN RESOURCE

Whether you are committed to achieving a "totally green" school or would like some information on how to introduce "greening" practices in your schools and classrooms, [Greening Colorado Schools](http://www.greeningcoloradoschools.org) is the site for you!

facilities. Resources are provided to help involve your students/ staff and community in helping implement earth friendly ideas, updates on what is happening around the country and links to the many agencies that are involved with implementing sustainable goals.

See more at:
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdefinance/ccagreeningcoloradoschools#sthash.iJ2Swf3y.dpuf>

This site offers information to all school districts and schools who are considering "Greening" their

