

## **Pest Management Policy**

When a pesticide must be used to meet important management goals, the least hazardous material adequate to control the pest will be chosen and label directions should be followed exactly. The application of pesticides may be subject to school policies and procedures, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 United States Code 136 et seq.), EPA regulations in 40 Code of Federal Regulations, OSHA regulations, and state and local regulations.

## **Pests**

Pests are unwanted populations of living organisms (animals, plants, or microorganisms). Strategies for managing pest populations will be influenced by the pest species and whether that species poses a threat to people, property, or the environment.

## **Integrated Pest Management Procedures**

Integrated pest management (IPM) procedures will be used to determine when to control pests and whether to use mechanical, physical, chemical, or biological means. IPM practitioners depend on current, comprehensive information about the pest and its environment, and the best available pest control methods. Applying IPM principles prevents unacceptable levels of pest activity and damage by the most economical means and with the least possible hazard to people, property and the environment.

The decision to use a pesticide will be based on a review of all other available options and a determination that these options are not acceptable or are not feasible. Cost or staffing considerations alone will not be adequate justification for use of chemical control agents, and selected non-chemical pest management methods will be implemented whenever possible to provide the desired control. It is the policy of this school to utilize IPM principles to manage pest populations adequately. The full range of alternatives, including no action, will be considered.

## **Education**

Staff, students, Pest managers, and the parents will be educated about potential school pest problems and the IPM policies and procedures that will be implemented.

## **Record Keeping**

Records of pesticide use shall be maintained onsite to meet the requirements of the state regulatory agency and school board. Records are current and accurate for IPM to be effective. In addition, pest surveillance data sheets that record the number of pests or other indicators of pest populations should be maintained to verify the need for treatment.

## **Pesticide Storage and Purchase**

Pesticide purchases will be limited to the amount authorized by IAQ Committee for the use during the year. Pesticides will be stored and disposed of in accordance with the EPA-registered label directions and state regulations. Pesticides will be stored in an area inaccessible to students or unauthorized personnel.

## **Pesticide Applicators**

Pesticide applicators must have a working knowledge of the principles and practices of IPM and use on pesticides approved by this school. They must follow regulations and label precautions. Applicators must comply with this schools' IPM policy and pest management plan.

Pests and pesticides can pose significant problems and risks to people, property, and the environment. It is, therefore, the policy of Trinity Christian School to incorporate IPM procedures for control of structural and landscape pests. This policy will minimize the amount and toxicity of pesticides used in the school.