



Pests and Pesticides in Child-serving Facilities: An IPM Newsletter

Teachers NOT Allowed to Apply Pesticides in Schools!

Karen M. Vail

I write this column today as a result of a situation that occurred in a Tennessee school. As the “story” goes, ants were entering the classroom. The teacher paid a school support person to purchase a pesticide and then the teacher sprayed the pesticide while children were in the room. Under 62-21-124 of the “Tennessee Application of Pesticides Act of 1978” , only a person under the direct supervision of person licensed to apply pesticides can apply pesticides inside a school. Thus, teachers, custodians, maintenance and other school personnel are NOT allowed to apply pesticides in a school unless the school has someone licensed for this purpose. I would expect most teachers and other school personnel have not been made aware of this Tennessee law. (By the way, violation of this law could result in a class A misdemeanor. Most likely, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture would warn the violator, but if repeated occurrences were to occur after a warning, a judge would be determining the discipline.)



In schools, we want to prevent the school occupants from being exposed to pesticides. Some pesticide labels will actually state that pesticides cannot be applied while children are present. In addition, the application of some products that have a strong odor (even a strong pleasant odor) and are low in toxicity, could trigger an asthma attack if done when children or other occupants are present.

Let’s leave the pesticide applications in the hands of the professionals. They are trained in the proper and safe use of these materials. There are a few school systems in the state that have someone on staff licensed to apply pesticides, but most school systems, 89% of our 2002 UT school pest management survey respondents, contract their pest control.

Special points of interest:

> Teachers NOT Allowed to Apply Pesticides in Schools!

Asthma Causes or Triggers

- Allergies
- Food and food additives
- Exercise
- Heartburn
- Smoking
- Sinusitis
- Infections
- Medication
- Irritants—tobacco smoke, strong odors
- Weather
- Strong emotions

Source:
<http://www.webmd.com/asthma/guide/asthma-triggers>

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62-21-124. Pesticides in buildings used for food preparation and service, lodging, educational purposes or commercial food processing.

(a) Whether or not engaged in the business of applying pesticides, a person may not apply a pesticide within any of the following buildings, except under the direct supervision of a person licensed to apply pesticides in accordance with this chapter:

- (1) Any building used for the preparation or serving of food;
- (2) Any building used for the temporary or permanent lodging of others;
- (3) Any building used primarily for educational purposes, except those buildings used primarily for religious instruction or for providing education to not more than ten (10) persons; or
- (4) Any commercial food processing facility.

(b) Subsection (a) does not apply to the application of pesticides by an individual in the individual's dwelling, nor to the application of pesticides by the owner of a multi-unit dwelling in which the owner resides and which contains not more than three (3) additional units used for the temporary or permanent lodging of others.

[Acts 1978, ch. 844, § 24; 1981, ch. 78, § 4; T.C.A., § 62-2124; Acts 1985, ch. 217, § 1; 1994, ch. 960, § 14.]

School IPM 2015

Reducing Pest Problems and Pesticide Hazards in Our Nation's Schools

According to Zach Bruns, The Project Assistant for IPM Institute of North America, Inc., the September edition of the School IPM 2015 eNewsletter is now available:

http://www.ipminstitute.org/school_ipm_2015/Sept09_eNewsletter.htm

Please send an email to info@schoolipm2015.com if you would like to be added to the eNewsletter mailing list (you may opt out at any time).

**You are cordially invited to EPA's Next RCC Web Academy on
Thursday, October 15, 2009 @ 1:00 - 2:30 (Eastern Time)**

To register, visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/rcc/web-academy/index.htm>

Chemicals in Schools: Real Problems, Real Solutions October 15, 2009

Description:

When it comes to students' health, our kids deserve the best protection possible. These days, elementary and secondary schools have many important safety issues to deal with, not the least of which is to ensure that students are protected from dangerous chemicals where they learn.

Join us for the Schools Chemical Cleanout Campaign RCC Web Academy -- Chemicals in Schools: Real Problems, Real Solutions -- to hear from school, community, and industry experts who have all grappled with school chemical management issues and come away from the experience with valuable lessons learned and stories to share.

In addition to expertise in their respective fields, each of the Chemicals in Schools: Real Problems, Real Solutions panelists bring very fresh perspectives on chemical management in K-12 schools to the table.

All three panelists recently participated in the White House "United We Serve" summer service initiative. The US Environmental Protection Agency recognized the panelists for their efforts to implement sustainable long-term responsible chemical management and to inventory and safely dispose of over 500 pounds of outdated, unknown and unneeded chemicals in Grandview, MO. They will discuss their experiences in the webinar.

Speakers:

Patricia Johnson -- Science Department Chair at Grandview High School, Grandview, MO

Tita LaGrimas -- Executive Vice President of Regulatory Affairs, Pollution Control Industries (PCI), a Tradabe Company, East Chicago, IN. PCI has provided chemical management services in six schools.

Roarke Holzschuh -- State On-Scene Coordinator, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City, MO

Information supplied by Sherry Glick [Glick.Sherry@EPAMAIL.EPA.GOV] via the School IPM Listserv.

To join the national School IPM Listserv, visit School IPM WWW site at <http://schoolipm.ifas.ufl.edu/> and follow the instructions under "School IPM Listserv."

"Managing Asthma in the School Environment"

The following information was excerpted from the EPA Indoor Air Quality Web Page at <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/managingasthma.html>

The Asthma Epidemic

Asthma has reached epidemic proportions in the United States affecting about 20 million people of all ages and races, particularly children. Nearly one in 13 school-aged children has asthma, and the percentage of children with asthma is rising more rapidly in preschool-aged children than in any other age group. Asthma is the leading cause of school absenteeism due to a chronic illness, accounting for over 14 million missed school days per year. Asthma also accounts for many nights of interrupted sleep, limitation of activity, and disruption of family and care-giver routines. Asthma symptoms which are not severe enough to require a visit to an emergency room or to a physician can still be serious enough to prevent a child with asthma from living a fully active life.

Asthma is a long-term, inflammatory disease in which the airways of the lung tighten and constrict causing wheezing, breathlessness, chest tightness, and coughing.

These symptoms can be at least partially reversed, either spontaneously or with treatment. The inflammation also causes the airways of the lung to become especially sensitive to a variety of asthma triggers. In addition, the particular trigger or triggers and the severity of symptoms can differ for each person with asthma.

Since Americans spend up to 90% of their time indoors, exposure to indoor allergens and irritants may play a significant role in triggering asthma episodes. Some of the most common [asthma triggers](#) found indoors include:

- animal dander
- cockroaches
- mold
- secondhand smoke
- dust mites

Other asthma triggers include: respiratory infections, pollens (trees, grasses, weeds), outdoor air pollution, food allergies, exercise and cold air exposure. See also www.epa.gov/asthma/triggers.html

10 Ways to Manage Asthma

1. **Use the [IAQ Tools for Schools Action Kit](#)** - Help people with asthma by improving the school environment with IAQ practices recommended in this kit.
2. **Control Animal Allergens** - Remove classroom animals from the school, if possible. If not, locate animals away from sensitive students and ventilation systems.
3. **Control Cockroach Allergens** - Use Integrated Pest Management practices to prevent cockroach and other pest problems (e.g., store food in tightly sealed containers and place dumpsters away from the building).
4. **Clean Up Mold and Control Moisture** - Fix moisture problems and thoroughly dry wet areas within 24-48 hours to prevent mold growth. Clean up moldy hard surfaces with water and detergent, then dry thoroughly.
5. **Eliminate Secondhand Smoke Exposure** - Enforce no-smoking policies in the school.
6. **Reduce Dust Mite Exposure** - Make sure school is dusted and vacuumed thoroughly and regularly.
7. **Develop an Asthma Management Plan in Your School** - Include school policies on inhaler and medication usage, emergency procedures for school staff when a student has an asthma attack. Obtain the U.S. Dept. of HHS, NIH, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute's "[Managing Asthma: A Guide for Schools](#)" (see www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/prof/lung/asthma/asth_sch.htm).
8. **Provide School-Based Asthma Education Programs** - Contact your local American Lung Association about Open Airways, a school-based asthma management program for students with asthma.
9. **File Student Asthma Action Cards** - Make sure students with asthma obtain and turn in copies of their Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America action cards to teachers, school nurse, etc. Encourage students to find out and identify their asthma triggers.
10. **Gather Additional Asthma Information and Resources** - Establish a complete file on existing asthma and allergy-related information sources to reference throughout the school year.

School IPM Group Receives Award for Initiating Regional Collaboration

Rosemary Hallberg, Communication Specialist, Southern Region IPM Center in the School Pest News Volume 8, Issue 1 (A Program of Texas AgriLife Extension Service — The Texas A&M System)

A working group of Extension specialists in school integrated pest management received a regional award on March 10th at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America. The Southern Region School IPM Working Group received the Friends of IPM "Bright Idea" Award from the Southern Region IPM Center. The award recognizes an innovative idea or breakthrough that makes IPM implementation easier or more effective. The group received the award for forming the school IPM regional working group in the southern region. Southern Region IPM Center Associate Director, Steve Toth, presented the award.

"This award is for the 'unsung heroes' of integrated pest management," Toth said. "The Southern Region School IPM Working Group is receiving the Friends of IPM Bright Idea Award for creating and maintaining a coordinated working group."

The group includes IPM specialists at each of the southern region land grant universities. Members of the group met for the first time in May 2007, after the Southern Region IPM Center invited them to Atlanta to share resources and discuss challenges in each state. Before that meeting, most school IPM specialists worked with the resources in their own states and did not know who to contact in other states.

Each state's resources varied from manuals and innovative workshops to a few handouts and occasional visits. While some school IPM specialists dedicated their time to the schools, others balanced those responsibilities with visits to farms and grower workshops. While some had built strong school IPM programs, others struggled to keep theirs afloat. The first challenge facing the group was responding to a newly-developed national school IPM pest management strategic plan. The plan was created by a national group to reduce pest and pesticide-related hazards to children in the U.S. public schools by 2015.

By the end of the two-day meeting, everyone had shared resources, created a mission statement and priorities, elected a chair and secretary and begun planning a logo. The group had two main goals: to enhance the existing programs in each state and to assist programs that were struggling to change school pest management practices in their states.

"There's no way we're going to meet the national PMSP goal of school IPM implementation by 2015 if we don't all work together," said Janet Hurley, School IPM specialist from Texas AgriLife Extension.

The initial group included Lawrence "Fudd" Graham and Vicky Bertagnolli (now at Clemson University), Auburn University; Faith Oi and Rebecca Baldwin, University of Florida; Jim Criswell and Tom Royer, Oklahoma State University; Leslie Godfrey, Clemson University; John Hopkins, University of Arkansas; Janet Hurley, Mike Merchant, and Don Renchie, Texas AgriLife Extension; Dale Pollet and Dennis Ring, LSU AgCenter; Godfrey Nalyanya, North Carolina State University; Karen Vail, University of Tennessee; Bill Witt, University of Kentucky; Tom Green, IPM Institute; Herb Bolton, USDA; and Mike Page, Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services. The group has since expanded to include representatives from all of the southern Land Grant universities, industry representatives, Environmental Protection Agency and US Department of Agriculture specialists, the Association of School Business Officials, the National School Plant Management Association, the National Pest Management Association, some non-profits, and representatives from school IPM working groups in the other regions.

Since 2007, the working group has applied for and received several grants. Graham, Oi and Baldwin received a grant from eXtension to host a national School IPM website. A National Extension Integrated Pest Management Special Projects grant funded a two-day green building workshop in Dallas, Texas, and presentations at several national and regional meetings of school business officials and school plant managers. An Environmental Protection Agency Pesticide Registration Improvement Renewal Act (PRIA) grant is funding workshops in Louisiana and North Carolina. Participants of the workshops will learn how to scout their schools for pests and how to address pest problems. The group is also adapting training materials from several states for regional use and translating them into Spanish.



From Left to Right: Godfrey Nalyanya, Steve Toth, Vicky Bertagnolli, Lawrence "Fudd" Graham, Janet Hurley, Karen Vail, Dale Pollet, and Mike Merchant

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**Comments or questions
 on this newsletter?
 Contact kvail@utk.edu**

For more information about IPM in Tennessee schools and other facilities, or to view past issues of *Pests and Pesticides in Child-serving Facilities*, please visit schoolipm.utk.edu or utyeah.utk.edu

NATIONAL IPM INFORMATION
 eXtension's Pest Management In and Around Structures: Urban Integrated Pest Management
<http://www.extension.org/Urban%20Integrated%20Pest%20Management>

National School IPM
schoolipm.ifas.ufl.edu/

IPM in Schools Texas
schoolipm.tamu.edu/resources.htm

IPM Institute of North America
www.ipminstitute.org/

School IPM PMSP—all schools IPM by 2015
http://www.ipminstitute.org/school_ipm_2015.htm

National Pest Management Association IPM
www.whatisipm.org/

EPA schools
www.epa.gov/pesticides/ipm/schoolipm/index.html

For further information about the IPM program at your school or in your county, contact your county Extension Agent or the school IPM Coordinator. For county agent contact information, please visit www.agriculture.utk.edu/personnel/districts_counties/default.asp

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Precautionary Statement

To protect people and the environment, pesticides should be used safely. This is everyone's responsibility, especially the user. Read and follow label directions carefully before you buy, mix, apply, store or dispose of a pesticide. According to laws regulating pesticides, they must be used only as directed by the label.

Disclaimer

This publication contains pesticide recommendations that are subject to change at any time. The recommendations in this publication are provided only as a guide. It is always the pesticide applicator's responsibility, by law, to read and follow all current label directions for the specific pesticide being used. The label always takes precedence over the recommendations found in this publication.

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