

## **I. Policy Statement**

Structural pests can pose significant hazards to people and property. Pesticides also can pose hazards to people, property and the environment. It is therefore the policy of Gilmer County Schools to incorporate Integrated Pest Management (IPM) procedures for control of structural pests. Strategies for managing pest populations will be influenced by the pest species and any threat they pose.

IPM procedures will determine when to control pests and whether to use mechanical, physical, chemical, cultural, or biological means. IPM practitioners will depend on current, comprehensive information on the pest and its environment and the best available pest control methods. IPM principles will be applied to prevent unacceptable levels of pest activity and damage by the most economical means and with the least possible hazard.

Selected non-chemical pest management methods will be implemented whenever possible. The full range of alternatives, including no action, will be considered. The choice of using a pesticide will be based on a review of all non-chemical options and a determination that such options alone are not acceptable or not feasible. When it is determined that a pesticide must be used to meet pest management objectives, the least hazardous material will be chosen. The application of such pesticides is subject to regulations of the West Virginia Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

## **II. Pest Management Objectives**

The pest management objectives of Gilmer County Schools are to:

- A. Manage pests that may be found on site to prevent interference with the work or learning environment,
- B. Protect the health of and eliminate injury to building occupants, and
- C. Preserve the integrity of buildings or structures.

## **III. Education of Building Occupants**

Educating and training staff to function within an IPM context is important 'to the success of an in-house IPM program. Therefore, this integrated pest management

program includes a commitment to the education of the occupants. This education will include all employees, including cafeteria workers, housekeeping staff and administrative personnel. All staff at the facility will be instructed in the basic concepts of IPM, how these principles are being applied in their particular situation, and how their own behavior can increase or reduce pest problems. Specific instructions will be provided on what to do and what not to do. For example, staff should not bring and use their own pesticides at school sites, move sticky traps or other pest monitoring devices, or prop open windows or screens in kitchens. All pesticide products, including those purchased at a retail store, will only be applied by properly trained and qualified personnel.

#### **IV. Inspection Activities**

Gilmer County Schools will be responsible for the initial inspections. This activity will include an inspection of both the interior and exterior of the facility for pest activity and conditions conducive to pests. Information recorded under pest activity will include actual sightings of pests and such evidence of pests as cast skins, droppings, or damage. Information recorded under conditions conducive to pests will include sanitation problems, moisture sources, and areas where pests may enter buildings. Follow-up inspections will be made at six month intervals.

#### **V. Monitoring Activities**

Gilmer County Schools will be responsible for monitoring activities. The monitoring program will include placement of sticky traps designed for cockroaches and other crawling insects along wall/floor junctions, on vertical surfaces, behind appliances, in closets, cabinets and shelves, and in other areas where insects have been seen.. Other components of the monitoring program will include:

- A. A floor plan of the facility showing the number and location of each trap.
- B. Periodic inspection of each trap at no greater than monthly intervals with the following information recorded on a Pest Surveillance Data Sheet:
  - 1. Date checked
  - 2. Trap number and location
  - 3. Trap condition (either OK or needs to be replaced)
  - 4. Numbers and species of insects trapped
  - 5. Other evidence of pests (Cast skins, droppings, etc.) or pest damage,
  - 6. Any need for pest management
- C. Replacement of the traps when the adhesive is no longer tacky or when trap is full, whichever comes first.
- D. Removal and disposal of the insects trapped after numbers are recorded and identification is confirmed, to prevent counting specimens more than once and to prevent their use as food by other insects or rodents.

## **VI. Evaluation of IPM Strategies**

Evaluation of the IPM program will include a periodic review of the inspection reports and Pest Surveillance Data Sheets to observe increases or decreases in pest activity and any correlations between such changes and pest management actions taken. Results will be compared with the pest management objectives. If necessary, the program will be altered to better achieve the objectives.

