



Subject:
**Integrated Pest Management
Policy**

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PURPOSE

The City of Pearland recognizes the potential impact on people, property, and the environment that unsound and unsafe pest control measures may have. It also recognizes the potential impact it has on employees and contractors working within city facilities. To reduce the negative impact, the City will use Best Management Practices in implementing an effective Integrated Pest Management program to control pests.

DISCUSSION

Structural and landscape pests can pose significant problems to people, property, and the environment. Pesticides can also pose risks to people, property, and the environment. It is therefore the policy of the City of Pearland to incorporate Integrated Pest Management (IPM) procedures for control of structural and landscape pests.

IPM is an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management that relies on a combination of commonsense practices. IPM programs use current, comprehensive information on the life cycles of pests and their interactions with the environment. This information, in combination with the available pest control methods, is used to manage pest damage by the most economical means, and with the least possible hazard to people, property and the environment. IPM programs take advantage of all pest management options available including, but not limited to, the judicious use of pesticides. Understanding pest needs is essential to implementing IPM effectively. Pests seek habitats that provide basic needs such as air, moisture, food, and shelter. Pest populations can be prevented or controlled by removing some of the basic elements pests need to survive, or by simply blocking their access into buildings. Pests may also be managed by other methods such as traps, vacuums, housekeeping procedures, or pesticides. An understanding of what pests need in order to survive is essential before action is taken.

Pests are populations of living organisms (animals, plants, or microorganisms) that interfere with the use of the Institution for human purposes. 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.

Approved pest management plans shall be submitted by any contractor conducting pest control services on City property prior to the services being rendered.



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Pests will be managed to:

- Reduce any potential human health hazard or to protect against a significant threat to public safety.
- Prevent loss of or damage to City structures or property.
- Prevent pests or diseases associated with the pests from spreading into the community, or to plant and animal populations.
- Enhance the quality of life for employees, visitors and residents.

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 on 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 choice of using 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 the City of Pearland to utilize IPM principles to manage pest populations adequately. The full range of alternatives, including no action, will be considered.

When it is determined that a pesticide must be used in order to meet important management goals, the least hazardous material will be chosen. The application of pesticides is subject to:

- Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 United States Code, 136 et seq.)
- Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations
- Occupational and Health Administration regulations
- State and local regulations.

It is also recommended to use pesticides rated for aquatic use whenever possible (mandatory when application is made in or adjacent to aquatic sites – State Law) as a precaution to help protect vulnerable wildlife species. Records of pesticide use shall be maintained by the Contractor and by the responsible City Department to meet all government regulatory policies and procedures. Any contractor employed to conduct pest control services on City property will be required to furnish records of any pesticide used on City property.



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Pesticide purchases by City employees will be limited to State pre-approved compounds only, and to the amount authorized for use during the year. Pesticides will be stored and disposed of in accordance with the EPA-registered label directions, and all Federal and State regulations. Pesticides will be stored in an appropriate, secure site, not accessible to unauthorized personnel.

Contractors and City employees applying pesticides must be educated and trained in the principles and practices of IPM and the use of pesticides and must follow all label and regulations precautions. Applicators must possess the appropriate license issued by the State of Texas Department of Agriculture. Contractors and employees will also be required to clean equipment such as tractors, trucks, and mowers prior to entering designated natural areas to prevent spreading seed of unwanted plants

REFERENCE

- Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 United States Code, 136 et seq.)
- Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations
- Occupational and Health Administration Regulations
- State and Local Regulations

REVIEW & REVISION HISTORY

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