

DPR's School IPM Workshops An Overview for the Host School District

Overview

As part of the Healthy Schools Act (HSA) the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) is required to provide Integrated Pest Management (IPM) training to all public California school districts. To meet this requirement DPR conducts School IPM Workshops throughout California. The workshops provide training for the management of school pests through hands-on activities, walk-through inspections, and demonstrations on a school campus. The training is appropriate for school district staff involved in pest management activities, such as IPM coordinators, maintenance & operations (M&O) directors, groundskeepers, and custodial staff.

DPR is currently seeking school district hosts for future workshops.

Benefits of Hosting

School districts throughout California face increasing pressure from parents and other community members to reduce pesticide use through compliance with the Healthy Schools Act. Implementing an IPM program can help school district to protect children from unnecessary pesticide exposure and allow districts to demonstrate forward-thinking in their pest management policies.

As a workshop host school district, you will benefit in a number of ways:

- Receive IPM training tools and resources.
- Enjoy complimentary participation for three staff members.
- Get a professional school inspection and evaluation by expert IPM trainers.
- Obtain continuing education (CE) credit towards DPR certificates and licenses.
- Host a news-worthy event that highlights your commitment to healthy, economically, and environmentally friendly school policies.

Pre-Workshop Logistics and Meetings

Hosting a workshop involves making certain facilities available **on a day when school is not in session**, usually during a fall, ski, or spring break week. Once DPR and the host district have agreed on a tentative date for the workshop, DPR staff will meet with at the host district to **tour 1-3 schools in order to find the most appropriate schoolsite** for the workshop. Some things that DPR looks for in ideal workshop locations include:

- An older school site.
- A site that has pest issues such as gophers, weeds, cockroaches, ants, etc. (This makes for good training)
- Athletic fields with real grass.
- Easy access from a major freeway.

When a date and a schoolsite are selected, DPR staff will begin to advertise for the future workshop.

About **one month before the workshop**, DPR staff and the IPM trainers will meet the host district staff at the schoolsite for a 2-3 hour site visit. During the site visit the IPM trainers will walk through the campus to become familiar with current pests problems, see good examples of IPM, take instructive pictures, and collect weed, soil, and other specimen samples to plan their curriculum. DPR staff will finalize facilities

needs for the workshop including a meeting room that seats 50 people, one or two classrooms that seat 25 people, access to the kitchen for walk-through inspections, and the ability to access landscaped areas and athletic fields for demonstrations.

On the **day before the workshop**, usually in the afternoon, DPR staff and the IPM trainers set up for the workshop. In general, access is needed for 2-4 hours in the rooms and locations that will be used for the workshop. Note that at least two rooms (the meeting room for 50 and the classroom for 25 people) may have valuables stored overnight and should not be used for any function the night before a workshop.

The Workshop

Two IPM trainers, one focused on structural IPM and the other focused on landscape IPM, present at each workshop. The instructors are prominent practitioners in their field with experience in training and providing IPM services to school, residential, commercial, and government clients.

Day of Workshop Agenda (in general):

- Registration, coffee and pastries provided—7:00 – 7:30 a.m.
- Introductory presentation—7:30 – 8:15 a.m.
- Concurrent landscape and structural breakout sessions—8:15 – 11:15 a.m.
- Lunch provided—11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Concurrent landscape and structural breakout sessions (groups switch)—12:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- Group exercise—3:00 – 3:45 p.m.
- Wrap-up—3:45 – 4:00 p.m.

In general, on the day of the workshop DPR staff and the IPM trainers will need access to the school campus from 6:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Bringing IPM Back to Each District

Effective IPM policies require district support at all levels, from administrators to students. These IPM workshops are designed to increase the participant's knowledge of IPM and enable them to pass on that knowledge to others in their district. The host district and each previously untrained district will be provided with a training box of IPM materials including manuals, references, training curricula, and training tools. These materials are intended to aid the district representative who attends the workshop in presenting future training to other members of their district's IPM team.

References

Staff members from host school districts report a high level of satisfaction with DPR's School IPM Workshops. We would be happy put you in touch with one of our previous host districts to discuss their experience as an IPM workshop host.

Additional Information

For additional information about DPR's School IPM Workshops, view a slide show at:
http://apps.cdpr.ca.gov/schoolipm/training/schoolipm_training_ppt.pdf

For more information about DPR's School IPM Program, visit the DPR School IPM Web site at:
<http://apps.cdpr.ca.gov/schoolipm/>