

## **Description of the Department of Pesticide Regulation's School IPM Training Workshops**

### Overview

The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) is currently seeking school districts to host a School Integrated Pest Management (IPM) workshop at one of their district's school sites. To implement the training requirement of the Healthy Schools Act (HSA), DPR conducts school IPM training for school districts throughout California. The purpose is to facilitate school district's implementation of successful IPM programs and least hazardous pest control practices. The workshops incorporate hands-on activities, assessment "walk-throughs" on a school campus and demonstrations to train school district staff, including IPM Coordinators, groundskeepers, and maintenance & operations employees. Each training workshop provides six hours of instruction on the management of the major regional pests problems found at school sites. The training is conducted in the buildings and grounds of the high school campus where the workshop is held.

### Benefits of Hosting

As an IPM workshop host, you will benefit in a number of ways, including free IPM training tools, complimentary participation for three of your staff, and professional inspection and evaluation of one of your high-schools by our expert IPM trainers. Participants also receive continuing education (CE) credit towards DPR licenses.

School districts throughout California are facing increasing pressure from parents and other community members to reduce pesticide use through compliance with the Healthy Schools Act. IPM programs protect children from unnecessary pesticide exposure and allow forward-thinking districts to demonstrate concern in their pest management policy. Hosting a workshop provides a news-worthy event to publicize to your neighbors and community that highlights district commitment to healthy, economic and environmentally friendly school policies.

### Pre-Workshop Logistics

Optimally, a representative from fifty school districts in the region will be trained at each workshop. Hosting this event involves making certain facilities in the district available for the training workshop **on a day when school is not in session**. The facilities needed include: a meeting room that seats 55 people, a classroom that seats 25, access to facilities such as the kitchen for walk-throughs, and access to landscaped areas and the athletic field for demonstrations.

Once DPR and the host district have found a tentative date for the workshop, DPR staff travels to meet with host staff to select the most appropriate campus for the workshop. About a month before the workshop, DPR and the trainers return to the campus for 2-3 hours to allow the trainers to take instructive pictures, weed samples, soil samples, etc. and become familiar with current pests problems, as well as good examples of IPM. Finally, on the afternoon before the full-day workshop, the trainers will need a few hours of access to the rooms selected for the workshop in order to set up.

### The Workshop

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

Workshop registration generally begins at 7:30 am, with coffee and pastries available. At 8 am we begin a morning introductory presentation, followed by concurrent landscape and structural breakout sessions from 8:45 am - 11:45 am and from 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm, with lunch provided in between. From 3:30 pm - 4:15 pm we conduct a group exercise, with a brief wrap-up session from 4:15 pm - 4:30 pm.

### 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 augment 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 large 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

Host district O & M staff report a high level of satisfaction with DPR's IPM training. 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

To view a slide show of the workshop, please visit our website at:

[http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/schoolipm/training/schoolipm\\_training\\_ppt.pdf](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/schoolipm/training/schoolipm_training_ppt.pdf)

Also our general School IPM website has much more information about DPR's School IPM Program that may be of interest to you:

<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/schoolipm/>