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# THE PESTICIDE REVIEW

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## The Healthy Schools Act

### *Background*

The Healthy Schools Act went into effect on January 1, 2001. This law requires public schools to notify parents and school employees about pesticides being used in the school environment. It also requires the Department of Pesticide Regulation to promote the voluntary adoption of integrated pest management practices in California schools.

Since many of you service schools, we thought that it would be helpful for you to know more about the Healthy Schools Act and what the law requires of schools and of pest control operators.

### **What does the Healthy Schools Act Require of School Districts?**

#### *Responsibility of School Districts:*

- 1) IPM Coordinator: Each school district must designate an employee who is responsible for carrying out the requirements of this new law. They would also be the one responsible for training staff in IPM practices.

- 2) Annual Pesticide Notification: Schools must provide annual written notification to parents and staff about all pesticide products the school district expects to use on school grounds. The notice must contain the name of each pesticide, the active ingredient or ingredients in the product, and the address of DPR's web website: (<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov>)
- 3) Maintain a Registry: In the annual pesticide notification, each school designee shall provide the opportunity for parents or staff members to register with the school district if they wish to receive notification of individual pesticide applications. Each registered person must receive notification at least 72 hours prior to the application. The notice must contain the product name, active ingredient(s), and the intended date of application.
- 4) Posting: Warning signs must be posted 24 hours prior and must remain posted 72 hours after each application. The signs must be posted around the treatment area and include the following: "Warning / Pesticide Treated Area", and shall include the product name, manufacturer's name, EPA Number, intended date and areas of application, and the reason for the pesticide application.
- 5) Records: Schools are required to keep use records for 4 years. (Including applications made by pest control operators)

**Exemptions** - The notification and posting requirements listed above do not apply to self-contained baits or traps, to gel or paste used in crack and crevice treatments (\*Note: powders used in crack and crevice treatments aren't included in the exemption), antimicrobial pesticides including sanitizers and disinfectants, and to any pesticide exempted from regulation by the USEPA.

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## Compliance of School Districts

Most schools are already complying with the new requirements. However, some schools are reluctant to use pesticides or are trying to comply but are falling short on some of the requirements. Some are turning to pest control companies for help with pesticide applications and posting. If a pest control company is hired to do a school application and posting, they must know where to place the posting, when it needs to be posted, and what information is required to be on it. We suggest companies have a clear written agreement if their responsibilities include posting. It is a good idea to have a contingency plan identifying who is responsible for replacing postings that are removed before the 72-hour post application requirement has elapsed.

## What Does the Healthy Schools Act Require of Pest Control Operators?

Pest control companies are required to report the amount of pesticides they use at school sites to DPR. (This is in addition to the regular use report submitted to the Agricultural Commissioner). The School Site Pesticide Use Report must be submitted at least annually, but your company may choose to do it on a monthly basis. This special school use report is formatted differently from the regular use report. It can be downloaded from DPR's web site (<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov>), or call our office and we can supply you with a copy.

## The Role of the Department of Agriculture

The Healthy Schools Act is found in the Education Code not the California Food and Agricultural Code. Therefore, our Department does not regulate or enforce this law. However, as we regulate the use of pesticides, we have initiated an outreach effort aimed at school districts. Our goal is to educate them about the requirements of the Healthy Schools Act and also the requirements of pesticide use, such as handler training.

## Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Update:



### Background

The glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS) is an insect, which spreads the deadly Pierce's Disease to grape vines. GWSS is well established in eight southern California counties. Since 2000 the California Department of Food and Agriculture has funded local detection and exclusion programs to prevent the further spread of this insect.

### Summer of 2001

Last summer two populations of GWSS were found in residential areas of South San Jose. Our Department undertook a treatment program in an attempt to control or eradicate this pest. Each residential property within each area was surveyed and those properties where GWSS were found (and those adjacent) were treated by pest control operators. Each property was treated twice (4 weeks apart) using two pesticides:

- 1) Imidachloprid (Merit™)- soil injection
- 2) Carbaryl ("7"™) – foliar application.

This combination of pesticides was required to give both a knockdown and residual effect and to allow treatment of the wide range of plant species found in residential settings. Approximately 450 properties were treated.

### Plans for Summer of 2002

The effectiveness of last year's program will be gauged as survey and trapping activities resume in late April.

To minimize inconvenience to homeowners, the 2002 program intends to treat infested properties in a single visit. At this time, the property will be treated with a foliar application of Merit and a soil injection of Merit.

## Rewarding your Employees

Our last newsletter addressed the issue of employee supervision and the importance of implementing an employee disciplinary program. There is another important side to this story however, recognition of good behavior and a job well done!

There was a very good article by Eric. R Paulsen in the Winter Edition of the PCOC magazine entitled Behavior Management. It discussed the importance of regular and consistent training to behavior modification. "Repeated exposure to the same message changes behavior."

It also offered examples of how employee incentives can boost morale as well as result in better safety records. "Recognition for a job well done is the single most important factor in employee job satisfaction." Job satisfaction should in turn translate to effectiveness and efficiency. With regards to your operation, this could result in fewer non-compliances and worker safety violations.

We suggest that you consider implementing an incentive or rewards program of some sort within your company. It could be based on client comments, your own oversight inspections, as well as our inspections.

## Branch II and III Applicator Exams:

*Tests will resume May 29<sup>th</sup>*

The Structural Board recently repossessed all structural exams across the State and cancelled all testing in the last part of April. Evidently the previous exams were "compromised", so the State destroyed the old exam and created new ones. Branch II and Branch III candidates will now take the same test and they have to answer 100 multiple-choice questions.

We will be able to accommodate 10 candidates per testing session. The tests will resume the last Wednesday of this Month, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. The fee is still \$15.00 and the candidates must remember to bring photo identification with them to the exam.

## Bacteria, Fungi Could Bug Termites To Death

The following is a copy of a newspaper article we thought you might find of interest.

April 11, 2002

Reuters

WASHINGTON -- U.S. government researchers were cited as saying on Thursday that bacteria and fungi could soon join pesticides in controlling termites, responsible for causing millions of dollars in damage to homes and forests in the United States each year. Scientists at the U.S. Department of Agriculture were cited as saying they had found one bacterium and two fungi that can kill nearly 100 percent of the Formosan subterranean termite population within a week without harming humans or plants. Maureen Wright, a research microbiologist with the USDA, was quoted as saying in a statement that, "Microorganisms represent an additional tool in the integrated pest management toolbox." In an effort to find a potent pathogen against the termite, Wright and her colleagues studied several hundred microorganisms -- including several removed from dead termites or found where the insects live, Wright told a meeting in Orlando, Florida of the American Chemical Society.

