



Pest Control Pro



Our Pest Control Pro Insurance Program is Designed to be Stable & Secure for Pest Control Operators Like You.



Keith Steinberg

Thomco's Pest Control Pro is an "A" Rated insurance program designed specifically for pest control operators like you. We know that one major accident can mean disaster for your business. That's why we provide coverages such as job-site pollution, contractual liability, and transit pollution to ensure that your business survives in case of a mishap. We even offer coverage for businesses that specialize in fumigation. At Thomco we know that you work hard to protect your customers from pests. Contact us to see how we can provide insurance that will help ensure you won't be bugged by claims.

For more information on Pest Control Pro, please call Keith Steinberg at 888.245.4678 or visit us on the web at www3.thomcoins.com/pcp.cfm

Pest Control Pro

P.O. Box 440549 Kennesaw, GA. 30160

THOMPSON INSURANCE ENTERPRISES, INC. **THOMCO**



Pest Control News Bites



Pest Control News Bites

Servicing schools can be a challenge, but it can also be a tremendous opportunity of growth for your company.

FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW WHEN SERVICING SCHOOLS

The use of pesticides has been a hot topic in the United States for the last 50 years. The general public has become aware of the dangers of excessive use of pesticides and herbicides and the issue becomes especially charged when children are involved. Due in part to this increased awareness, the EPA and most states have set forth guidelines if pesticides are going to be applied in schools.

The EPA recommends the adoption of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach by school systems to control local pests and the emphasis is to limit, if not eliminate, the use of chemicals.

According to EPA report #EPA-735-F-93-012 issued back in 1993, the goal of the school pest manager is "to reduce exposure to potentially harmful chemicals". The EPA recommends that the IPM be used as an alternative to the regular spraying of chemicals. The seven steps outlined in the report are:

1. Develop an official IPM policy statement. The policy statement will be a guide in the conversion from contracted pest control services to a school-managed IPM program.
2. Designate pest management roles for occupants, pest management personnel, and key decision makers. Communication and education are key to everyone involved in this role.
3. Set Pest management objectives for the site (i.e. school).
4. Inspect site and identify and monitor pest populations for potential problems. Set action threshold levels of pest populations or site environmental conditions that require remedial action.
5. Apply IPM strategies to control pests. These include redesigning and repairing structures, improving sanitation, employing pest resistant plant varieties, establishing watering and mowing practices, and applying pesticides judiciously.
6. Evaluate results to determine if pest management objections are reached.

Use of Pesticides

According to the report, the use of pesticides is the last possible option. Also, cost or staffing considerations are not adequate justification for the use of chemical control agents by schools.

The overall tone of the report is for the school to administer the pest management program with no outside help. Also, parents are to be notified and consulted on all possible chemical treatments.

The reality is that schools are using outside contractors to apply pesticides and to help the schools in pest management. According to the August 2007 issue of the Southwest Technical Resources Center for IPM in Schools newsletter, School Pest News, 92 percent of 2005 school IPM survey respondents use outside contractors to perform all or some of the necessary pest management work (58% for some and 34% for all).

Some of the requirements schools may mandate depending on the state are:

1. Notification to the school 48 hours before any pesticide application.
2. School provided with written preapplication notification containing: 1) the brand name, concentration, rate of application, and any use restrictions required by the label of the herbicide or specific pesticide; 2) the area or areas to which the pesticide is to be applied; 3) the date and time the application is to occur; and 4) the pesticide label and the material safety data sheet.
3. Permission to periodically check the technicians' licenses. The school may also inquire about the technicians' CEU certification.
4. Permission to ask how often traps are changed and on what dates. The schools will also ask for the number of pests caught in the traps. Your Technicians may be asked to check pest-sighting logs kept by teachers to see if there is a problem.
5. Justification to apply a pesticide.
6. Permanent posting at the central bulletin board for indoor school pesticide applications. The notice must include a contact for receiving more information and the next application date. The posted sign may be removed 60 days after the last treatment if no more applications are planned.



Fall 2008