

Regulations Regarding the Application of Pesticides

In an attempt to assure proper control of any pesticides or other potentially harmful chemicals¹ which might be used or stored on district premises, the following procedures have been established. The term “pesticide,” as used in Board policy and this regulation includes insecticides, herbicides, fungicides and rodenticides. Their intent is the prevention of unnecessary exposure of staff, students, or members of the community to potentially harmful substances.

1. If pesticides or other potentially hazardous chemicals are to be used, the least toxic product(s) will be selected whenever practicable. Products with the lowest percentage of active ingredient(s), least odor possible and with the safest method of application will be selected when there is a choice of products with comparable effectiveness. When practical, a nonchemical or alternative pest control method (e.g., mulching, edging, turf, mowing, hand weeding, etc.) shall be used. Assistance on determining the relative toxicity of products may be obtained from members of the Pesticide Analytical and Response Center (PARC), 503-731-4025, Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD), 503-731-4031 or the National Pesticide Telecommunications Network (NPTN) at 800-858-7378.
2. Storage of pesticides and other potentially hazardous chemicals will be kept to a minimum. Since many chemicals lose effectiveness with storage, and storage further increases risk, only enough of the product for a given application will be purchased. If storage instructions are included, the instructions will be followed explicitly. All such products and the equipment used in the product application will be stored in separate facilities from other activities and especially separated from food products or occupied rooms. All storage facilities will be maintained as a locked area and will be clearly marked as containing pesticides and other potentially hazardous chemicals. Pesticide and other potentially hazardous chemical containers, rinsates and unusable products will be disposed of according to label directions and local regulations.
3. All pesticides and other potentially hazardous chemicals shall have complete label instructions, shall remain in the original container, and the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) information shall be on file and readily available to any employee who must handle such materials or who may have been exposed to the product. Such information is also available to any member of the public upon request.

¹Hazardous chemical, as defined by OAR 437, Division 2, means any chemical which is a physical hazard or health hazard. “Health hazard” means a chemical for which there is statistically significant evidence based on at least one study conducted in accordance with established scientific principals that acute or chronic health effects may occur in exposed individuals. The term “health hazard” includes chemicals which are carcinogens, toxic or highly toxic agents, reproductive toxins, irritants, corrosives, sensitizers, hepatotoxins, nephrotoxins, neurotoxins, agents which act on the hematopoietic system and agents which damage the lungs, skin, eyes or mucous membranes. “Physical hazard” means a chemical for which there is scientifically valid evidence that it is a combustible liquid, a compressed gas, explosive, flammable, an organic peroxide, an oxidizer, pyrophonic, unstable (reactive) or water-reactive.

4. All application of pesticides and other potentially hazardous chemicals shall be made in strict compliance with the label instructions and under no circumstance shall the product concentrations exceed those specified in the application instructions.
5. Prior to application of any pesticides and other potentially hazardous chemicals, a written plan for that application shall be filed in the business office of the district. The plan shall be signed by the district safety officer. The plan shall minimally contain:
 - a. Purpose of the application;
 - b. Product to be used;
 - c. Formulation of the product;
 - d. Location and extent of the area to be treated;
 - e. Type of equipment to be used;
 - f. Date and time of application;
 - g. The total amount of the product to be used;
 - h. Such provisions as may be necessary to comply with applicable Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division regulations for the application of chemical substances, including requirements for the use of pesticides on agricultural plants grown for commercial or research purposes. Any warnings that would restrict use of the area following such application shall also be part of the plan and will be appropriately posted to notify the public.

The record will include the purpose of the application, name and amount of the product used, location and area treated, application equipment used, date and time, notification/reentry procedures and authorization, as required.

6. Appropriate protective clothing must be worn and proper equipment used during mixing, applying and cleaning of application equipment. Selection and maintenance of protective clothing and equipment will be made in accordance with product label guidelines and OR-OSHA rules.
7. Pesticides and other potentially hazardous chemicals should always be applied at times when individuals are not present in the area to be treated. Application in the presence of persons not directly involved in the application of the product is to be avoided even when the pesticide has low toxicity. Any indoor applications should be accomplished after school hours, over a weekend or student vacation period or other such times. All indoor areas should be well ventilated prior to re-entry by staff or students. When possible, windows should also be opened for a minimum of six hours before staff, students or others return to the area.
8. Staff, students and others, especially those individuals that may be most vulnerable to the effects of pesticides or other potentially hazardous chemicals (e.g., infants, pregnant women, asthmatics, chemically sensitive people, etc.), will be notified of planned applications, as appropriate and practicable. Treated district grounds shall be posted with the date of application, pesticide product used and instructions on when areas may be used for recreational purposes.
9. District employee(s) responsible for handling and applying pesticides shall have specific pesticide training. An Oregon Pest Control Operator or Public Applicator license may be required. Employees who apply restricted-use pesticides or use power equipment to apply pesticides shall be licensed as required by the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

10. Any pesticide spill of more than one pound will be immediately reported to the Oregon Emergency Response System at 800-452-0311. The district will maintain as part of its emergencies procedures plan, a plan to respond to, investigate and manage such spills. The plan will include immediate steps to prevent exposure to students, employees and others, protect district property and the environment, agencies to notify, evacuation procedures, spill prevention, cleanup and spill response equipment and incident report form procedures.
11. If the district chooses to contract with a private, state-licensed pest control company, such contractors shall be subject to state law and these regulations.
12. Injuries or illnesses due to pesticide or other potentially hazardous chemicals must be reported immediately to a supervisor or district official. The individual will be directed to first-aid and/or medical treatment, as appropriate. The district will report such incidents to the Oregon Department of Human Services, Health Services, at 503-731-4025 (after regular business hours call 503-731-4030) and/or OR-OSHA, as required by law.