

Pest Management Report – 2004

Prepared for the Pest Management Advisory Committee

by John Hausbeck, Madison Dept of Public Health

19 August 2005

Introduction

In 2004, the Common Council revised the Policy Regarding Pest Management on City Property with the purpose of eliminating or further reducing pesticide use to the greatest possible extent. Reduction of pesticide use is important because misuse or overuse of pesticides is both an environmental problem and a public health issue. As required in the above policy, the following report summarizes the discussions of the Pest Management Advisory Committee regarding pesticide use by, and pest management plans for, agencies maintaining City property. This Committee is tasked with assessing reports and plans from each City agency managing pests on City property. The results of this assessment are then sent to the agency's director and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Coordinator, the agency's oversight committee or commission, the Mayor's office, and the Common Council. It is the responsibility of these individual's and groups to take the appropriate action regarding an agency's compliance with the City's Policy Regarding Pest Management on City Property.

Results – General findings

- Many agencies were not in compliance with the Policy because their contractor, Terminix, failed to provide a summary of pesticide use and pest management activities conducted during 2004. Committee staff is working with the IPM Coordinators and the City Purchaser to correct this problem in the future.
- The Committee recognized that some IPM Coordinators would benefit from a standard template for preparing a pest management plan. Committee staff will prepare such a template and distribute it to agency IPM coordinators prior to the next round of reporting and planning.
- The Committee found that a number of agencies did not adequately justify their use of pesticides. According to paragraph 3 of the Policy, chemical pesticides are justified if:
 1. Alternative methods are ineffective and
 2. The pest has exceeded a given threshold causing health, safety, or reduction in the intended use of the property.

Agencies should address these two issues when justifying pesticide use.

- In order to be successful, IPM coordinators must have the authority to alter existing plans and take action to remedy a pest problem. To ensure that these actions are compliant with the intent of the City Policy, it is important for the

IPM Coordinators to receive appropriate training to allow them to base decisions on sound science.

Results – Specific findings

City Engineering

Compliant with policy	Yes
Successes and Commendations	Plan for 2005 suggests agency has good comprehension of the City policy and integrated pest management methods.
Concerns	More specific information on the pesticide used is necessary.

Madison Fire Department

Compliant with policy	Yes
Successes and Commendations	MFD should be commended for eliminating pesticide use in their stations and on the turf outside their stations, as reported.
Concerns	The Committee was surprised that no pesticides were applied in 2004 and confused by the phrase "...we do not supply pesticides for Station or lawn use...". Additional information on pest management is needed in the annual report so other agencies can apply methods that have been successful for MFD.

Madison Metro Transit

Compliant with policy	No
Successes and Commendations	Not possible to identify
Concerns	2004 Report and 2005 Plan was not submitted

Monona Terrace

Compliant with policy	No
Successes and Commendations	Not possible to identify
Concerns	2004 Report and 2005 Plan was not submitted

Motor Equipment

Compliant with policy	No
Successes and Commendations	The IPM Coordinator's monitoring effort was good. Efforts are being made to improve compliance with the Policy.
Concerns	Contractor apparently applied rodenticide preventively rather than in response to monitoring data.

Parking Utility/Traffic Engineering

Compliant with policy	No
Successes and Commendations	Not possible to identify
Concerns	2004 Report and 2005 Plan was not submitted

Parks Department

Compliant with policy	Yes
Successes and Commendations	Excellent record keeping and reporting. Very detailed pest management plan.
Concerns	Additional information is needed on exotic plant control occurring in the West Parks District along the bike path.

Community and Economic Development

Compliant with policy	No
Successes and Commendations	Not possible to identify
Concerns	2004 Report and 2005 Plan was not submitted

Inspection Unit

Compliant with policy	No
Successes and Commendations	Not possible to identify
Concerns	2004 Report and 2005 Plan was not submitted

Housing Operations

Compliant with policy	No
Successes and Commendations	IPM Coordinator made an effort to gather information from their contractor, Terminix, and is working to improve the agency's pest management plan for 2006.
Concerns	Contractor appeared to use preventative treatments instead of monitoring as the base of their pest management program. Contractor also failed to provide an annual summary of pest management activities. Terminix is not compliant with the City policy.

Police Department

Compliant with policy	No
Successes and Commendations	IPM Coordinator did a good job of reporting and submitting plans for 2004 and 2005, respectively.
Concerns	Contractor report indicates an excessive use of insecticide. The IPM Coordinator reports that the vendor reports were incorrect concerning the use of insecticide and discontinued the contractor for 2006 due to reporting problems

Department of Public Health

Compliant with policy	Yes
Successes and Commendations	Report was very thorough.
Concerns	Committee asked that future reports be submitted in the summary format to make it easier to review. Full program report too large for this process.

Senior Center

Compliant with policy	Yes
Successes and Commendations	Overall, IPM Coordinator did a good job. Policy was thorough.
Concerns	More information on the purpose and justification of treatment in the report would be helpful. In some cases, amounts of product were not included.

Streets, Transfer Station

Compliant with policy	No
Successes and Commendations	IPM Coordinator made a good effort to obtain pesticide use data from their contractor, Terminix.
Concerns	Terminix did not provide summary reporting of pesticide use. Report of pesticide applied by staff for control of flies could be improved. Pyrethrum, the active ingredient used to control flies, can knock down flying adults but has not residual control. Control may be improved by determining the species of fly and tailoring control methods to fit that species. Staff should consider use of traps or other mechanical means of adult fly control.

Streets, Westside Facility

Compliant with policy	No
Successes and Commendations	Not possible to identify
Concerns	2004 Report and 2005 Plan was not submitted

Streets, Eastside Facility

Compliant with policy	No
Successes and Commendations	Coordinator made an effort to submit a report but was unable to obtain data from Terminix.
Concerns	Agency needs to contract with a pest management company that will assist the IPM Coordinator in complying with the Policy.