

PEST CONTROL

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PEST CONTROL

0700 PEST CONTROL PROGRAM

A wide variety of organisms damage natural and cultural resources and facilities on lands managed by the Department. It is the goal of the Department to minimize the need for pest control. When indigenous or exotic organisms become pests, the Department shall strive to control pest organisms with minimum reliance on pesticides, and, when necessary, to use pesticides which are target specific, are least toxic to humans, and present the least hazard to the environment.

0701 DEFINITIONS

"Agricultural Pest Control Adviser" is any individual licensed by the Department of Pesticide Regulation to make pest control recommendations on agricultural sites (Food and Agriculture Code § 12001).

"Agricultural Pest Control Operator" is any individual licensed by the Department of Pesticide Regulation to practice pest control on agricultural sites (Food and Agriculture Code § 11502).

"Agricultural site" includes all outdoor park lands.

"Client" is any non-employee or entity whose activities on park lands are governed by contractual agreement. This includes Concessionaires, Cooperating Associations, Civilian Conservation Corps, California Youth Authority, Special Events Participants, School District staff, individual volunteers and their agents.

"Exotic" means not naturally occurring in a particular locale.

"Handling" means mixing, loading, transferring, applying, or assisting with the application (including flagging) of pesticides; maintaining, servicing, repairing, or cleaning contaminated equipment used in these activities that may contain residues; working with opened (including emptied but not rinsed) containers of pesticides; adjusting, repairing, or removing treatment site coverings; incorporating (mechanical or watered-in) pesticides into the soil; and entering a treated area during any application or before the inhalation exposure level listed on the pesticide product labeling has been reached or greenhouse ventilation criteria have been met.

"Indigenous" means occurring naturally in a particular locale.

"Pathogen" is any microscopic agent that causes disease.

"Pest" is any animal, plant, fungi, bacteria, or virus, which may infest or be detrimental to humans, vegetation, animals, buildings, or facilities.

"Pesticide" means any substance or mixture of substances intended to be used for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any fungi, bacteria, virus, plant, or animal which may infest or be detrimental to humans, vegetation, animals, buildings, or facilities, or be present in the environment. This term includes acaricide, bactericide, insecticide, fungicide, rodenticide, herbicide, growth regulator, defoliant, desiccant, and disinfectant. It is also intended to cover poisons or repellents for amphibians, reptiles, birds, fish, mammals, and invertebrate animals.

"Reproductive structure" is any part of an organism capable of growing into a new separate organism or expanding the size of the parent organism. For plants this includes live roots, rhizomes, stolons, or seed.

“Structural Pest Control Operator” is any individual licensed by the Structural Pest Control Board to practice structural pest control (Business and Professions Code § 8506).

0702 POLICY

Employees shall make every reasonable effort to prevent the accidental transport of organisms/reproductive structures into or out of park units. Efforts shall emphasize a) operational procedures, b) oversight of clients, and c) education of non-contractual users (i.e., visitors and legal easement holders). All pests cannot be successfully excluded from any park unit, thus the Department shall direct its efforts to exclude invasive exotic pests, and to limit significant population increases of indigenous pests.

It is the policy of the Department to initiate pest control only when necessary to protect public health and safety, facilities, and cultural and natural resources. The Department shall avoid the use of chemical pesticides until all non-chemical methods have been explored and found by the Department to be inadequate. Control efforts shall be in accordance with other Department policies on plant and animal resources, cultural resources, and facility management.

Each District shall follow all requirements for the control of exotic pests which are quarantined by the Department of Food and Agriculture within their county, or the United States Department of Agriculture. Federal and State quarantine regulations can be found in the Department of Food and Agriculture’s Plant Quarantine Manual.

0705 EXCLUSION OF EXOTIC PESTS

Plant and animal species are usually slow to expand their range due to physical and climatic barriers such as oceans, deserts, and mountains. Humans have dramatically accelerated this process by transporting organisms throughout the world, both intentionally and inadvertently. While many exotic species cannot survive in a new environment without human intervention, many invasive species are able to displace indigenous species of flora or fauna. Every wildland park unit has been colonized by exotic pests causing disruption to many native ecosystems and the expenditures of significant monies to minimize these impacts. The most efficient means of exotic pest control is to prevent the introduction of these organisms.

0705.1 VEHICLE/EQUIPMENT CLEANING

Employees and clients utilize a wide variety of vehicles and motorized outdoor equipment in the performance of jobs. The equipment can be owned, leased, rented, or borrowed.

Many types of motorized equipment, particularly tracked vehicles, have the potential to transport pests if they have been driven off road or have transported soil or organic matter. Except in an emergency, vehicles or equipment that have operated off of established all weather road surfaces during wet soil conditions or have transported organic matter in locations known or suspected to harbor an exotic pest shall be cleaned prior to leaving the park.

Equipment that processes organic materials (e.g., chippers, stump grinders, splitters, chainsaws, lawnmowers, masticators), can harbor pests on internal moving parts. Organic matter shall be removed from interior moving parts of such equipment before the equipment is moved out of the park unit. The interior moving parts shall be thoroughly cleaned if the equipment has been used to process organic material contaminated with invasive exotic organisms.

Watercraft can harbor pests outside and inside of the hull and motor, in pumps and on moving parts and accessories. Thorough cleaning of these items shall be done before the vessel is moved to a different body of water.

Procedures for cleaning and removing foreign material from the interior and exterior of land based vehicles and equipment and watercraft are given in the Pest Control Handbook.

0705.2 IMPORT /EXPORT OF ORGANIC MATERIALS

Organic materials infected with exotic insects, plants, or pathogens shall not be transported out of the park unit in an unmodified condition (e.g., SOD or pitch canker infected wood to co-generation plants and composting facilities) except where the material is transported within tightly enclosed trucks to destinations that have no suitable hosts in the vicinity. Infected material may be used inside the park where it originated for resource management needs such as wood chips for erosion control. Wood that is infected with any exotic pathogen may be processed into firewood exclusively for use by employees within the park. Wood that is infected with any exotic pest shall not be made available to the public.

0705.3 IMPORT/EXPORT OF INORGANIC MATERIALS

The Department and its clients utilize many types of inorganic materials for construction and erosion control. These materials may contain organic contaminants including various reproductive structures. For example, quarried sand or gravel is unlikely to contain any organic contaminants. However, sand or gravel dug from dunes, beaches or river locations may contain aquatic, riparian or floodplain pests. Suspect materials shall be rinsed with water to extract pest organisms and reproductive structures.

0705.4 CONTRACTING

All contracts, interagency agreements, and agreements with private entities to do work on Department lands and facilities shall include language regarding appropriate pest exclusion methods such as vehicle/equipment cleaning and sources of organic matter.

0710 CONTROL OF EXISTING PESTS

Most indigenous organisms do not become pests; indeed many are often harmed by changes in their environment. However, a few indigenous species can exploit naturally caused disturbances in their environment greatly increasing their population. For example, bark beetle populations can explode regionally following extended droughts or locally following storm damage, resulting in high levels of tree mortality. Other species, particularly insects and omnivorous mammals, can exploit human disturbed sites. For example, ground squirrels can multiply in campgrounds because of increase availability of food and artificial habitat and the absence of predators.

The Department has limited ability to prevent large population increases in species that exploit natural disturbances. However, there are ample opportunities to prevent population increases for those pests exploiting human manipulated environments. For example, facilities can be designed to deny habitat opportunities for most species and visitor education can be employed to deny food to most species.

0711 PEST CONTROL BY DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

All types of natural, cultural, and facility resources that are managed by the Department are attacked by pests. Employees of many different specialties have direct and indirect responsibilities for the control of these pests. Roles and responsibilities are provided in the Pest Control Handbook.

0711.1 Pest Control Proposals By Employees

Evaluation and control recommendations for a new pest problem in an outdoor site may be accomplished by a Department employee only if that employee possesses an Agricultural Pest Control Advisers license of the appropriate specialty, and who is registered by the county in where the site is located. Otherwise, the evaluation and recommendation shall be conducted by a private contractor with the above license (DOM 0712).

Department employees are not required to possess a license to: 1) recommend pest control actions for indoor sites, or 2) to recommend identical treatments for a recurring pest problem on the same outdoor site. The original Pest Control Recommendation for the recurring outdoor pest shall be attached.

Any control action for indoor or outdoor pest problems that is proposed by an employee shall be documented on a form DPR 191, Pest Control Recommendation. This form complies with Food and Agriculture Code §12003 and California Code of Regulations Title 3, § 6556.

0711.2 Pesticide Handling By Employees

The Department shall comply with appropriate requirements for the safety of its employees.

- The employee safety requirements for handling antimicrobial agents used only as sanitizers, disinfectants, or medical sterilants, or pool and spa chemicals, are included in General Industry Safety Orders (Cal. Code Regs. Title. 8, beginning with § 3200).
- The employee safety requirements for handling pesticides for use on agricultural sites are included in General Safety Requirements (Cal. Code Regs. Title. 3, beginning with § 6420).

0711.21 Licensing

Any Department employee who handles non-restricted pesticides for use on indoor or outdoor sites does not need to possess a Qualified Applicators Certificate nor does he/she need to be supervised by someone who holds such a license.

Any Department employee who handles restricted pesticides (Cal. Code Regs., Title 3, § 6400) on outdoor sites shall have a Qualified Applicator Certificate with the appropriate category, or be directly supervised by someone who holds such a license.

0711.22 Restricted Materials on Outdoor sites

Restricted pesticides are listed in California Code of Regulations Title 3, § 6400. Exempt materials are listed in § 6402.

Any Department employee who intends to apply a California Restricted Material shall obtain and keep in his/her possession during the operation a Restricted Use Permit from the County Agricultural Commissioner's Office (Cal. Code Regs., Title. 3, § 6412-6428).

0711.23 Training

Each District shall have a written training program that describes the training materials (e.g., study guides, pamphlets, pesticide labels, Pesticide Safety Information Series leaflets, Material Safety Data Sheets) and information that will be provided and used to train Department employees and identify the person that will provide the training.

Prior to handling a pesticide, any Department employee who intends to apply the pesticide on Department lands or in Department facilities shall have received training in the safe handling of that pesticide. This training shall be repeated annually for any pesticide that the employee

continues to handle. Any Department employee who holds a Qualified Applicators Certificate with the appropriate outdoor category meets the training requirements.

This training may be provided by a Department employee, and shall comply with the California Code of Regulations, Title 3, § 6724. This training shall be documented on an Annual Pesticide Safety Training Record that is approved by the county.

0711.3 Documentation and Reporting Of Pesticide Use By Employees

Any Department employee who handles a pesticide as a part of his/her scheduled duties shall document this activity on a form DPR 491, Daily Chemical Use Report.

The California Code of Regulations requires that all of the pesticides applied by DPR on outdoor sites be reported monthly to the County Agricultural Commissioner's Office (Cal. Code Regs. Title 3, § 6624 and 6627). The reporting procedures are given in the Pest Control Handbook.

The Department is not required to maintain or submit records of pesticide use by clients or contractors; this is the responsibility of those entities.

0711.4 Toxic Exposure of Employees

The Toxic Exposure Act requires that the Department keep records in its employees' personnel files of exposure to toxic chemicals. The procedure for documenting and maintaining records of planned exposure to toxic chemicals such as routine handling of pesticides during normal scheduled duties, is described in DAM 1200.

The procedure for documenting and maintaining records of unplanned exposure to toxic chemicals is as follows. Any employee who: 1) becomes injured while handling a pesticide, 2) becomes ill during or after handling a pesticide, or 3) becomes ill during or after being accidentally exposed to a pesticide through vapor inhalation, skin or eye contact, or swallowing, shall seek emergency medical care immediately and report the incident to the Workers' Compensation and Safety Unit.

Any pesticide spill shall be reported to the County Agricultural Commissioner's Office.

In the event of illness, accident, or safety violation related to pesticide handling, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation or the County Agricultural Commissioner's Office may confidentially interview Department employees involved with the incident.

0711.5 Pesticide Storage, Transport, and Disposal by Employees

Storage, transport, and disposal of all pesticides shall be accomplished in conformance with the California Code of Regulations, Title 3, § 6670 - 6686.

0712 PEST CONTROL BY PRIVATE CONTRACTORS

All private contractors hired by the Department or its clients to conduct pest control work on Department managed lands and facilities shall be a licensed Structural Pest Control Operator, a licensed Agricultural Pest Control Operator, or a licensed Agricultural Pest Control Adviser. Pest management contracts can be:

- for the purposes of inspection/monitoring to determine if a problem exists,
- for controlling a known pest problem, or
- for all phases or inspection, monitoring and control of a pest(s).

Private Structural Pest Control Operators are required to inspect any Department facility for which they will be making any pest control proposals and document their findings on a Wood

Destroying Pests and Organisms Inspection Report (Business and Professions Code § 8516 and Calif. Code Regs., Title 16, § 1990).

Any proposed action for control of outdoor pests on Department managed lands by a private Agricultural Pest Control Adviser shall be documented on the contractor's own Pest Control Recommendation Form which shall comply with Food and Agriculture Code § 12003 and California Code of Regulations, Title 3, § 6556.

The reporting requirements for Structural Pest Control Operators and Agricultural Pest Control Operator are given in the Pest Control Handbook.

0713 PEST CONTROL BY OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES

Local and state agencies may conduct pest control work on Department lands for a variety of purposes.

- The California Department of Food and Agriculture monitors and controls exotic pests that are determined to be a threat to California's agricultural industry.
- County health departments and mosquito and vector control agencies monitor and control pests which are threats to public health such as malaria vectoring mosquitoes, Africanized honeybees, and plague vectoring fleas.
- The California Department of Health Services conducts research to determine the best methodology to treat human diseases vectored by native or naturalized wildlife populations.

The Department has entered into formal agreements with a number of these agencies to address such issues as notification procedures and acceptable treatment methods.

0714 PEST CONTROL BY CLIENTS

If a client is responsible for maintenance of facilities and/or landscaping within the scope of their lease agreement to operate on Department lands, the agreement shall include the following language:

All pest control activities, chemical or non-chemical, shall be approved by the Department prior to action by the (Name of client). The (Name of client), or the Pest Control Business acting on behalf of the (Name of client), shall submit a pest control recommendation on a form approved by the Department to the District Superintendent for approval. The Department has 14 days to approve or deny the request.

The (Name of client), or the Pest Control Business acting on behalf of the (Name of client), shall submit a report of completed work for each pest management action to the District Superintendent no later than 7 days after performance of the work.

The (Name of client) shall have a written training program for its employees who handle pesticides. This program shall comply with California Code of Regulations Title 3, Section 6724.

Any Pest Control Business hired by the (Name of client) shall comply with all California statutes and regulations.

The (Name of client) and all its employees or agents shall prevent the inadvertent transport of pest species into or out of the park unit.

0714.1 Pest Control By Clients and their Employees

All pest control work proposed by the client shall be submitted on a form DPR 191 to the District Superintendent for approval prior to conducting the work.

The client shall have a written training program for its employees who handle pesticides. Prior to handling a pesticide, any client employee who intends to apply the pesticide on Department lands shall have received training in the safe handling of that pesticide. This training program shall comply with California Code of Regulations Title 3, § 6724.

0714.2 Pest Management by Client's Agent

Any pest control business hired by a client to conduct pest control work on Department managed lands and facilities shall comply with the requirements stated in DOM § 712.

All pest control work proposed by the pest control business acting on behalf of the client shall be submitted by the client on the forms required in DOM § 712 to the District Superintendent for approval prior to conducting the work.

0720 PEST CONTROL REVIEW AND APPROVAL

The Department shall review all proposals initiated by Department employees, private pest control operators (DOM 0712), or clients (DOM 0714).

A Pest Control Recommendation shall be prepared by a licensed Agricultural Pest Control Adviser for all new pest problems on outdoor sites on Department-managed lands. If the pest problem re-occurs annually or semi-annually on the same site and cannot be resolved with an alternative control method, additional Pest Control Recommendations are not required. Future identical annual or semi-annual treatments shall refer to the original Pest Control Recommendation.

0721 VISITOR/EMPLOYEE REENTRY TO TREATED BUILDINGS/OUTDOOR SITES

Any building that has been fumigated with compounds listed in Buildings and Professions Code § 8505.1 shall be closed to access with warning signs posted until the building is ventilated and free of all fumes.

No visitor or employee shall enter an outdoor site where a pesticide has been applied for the time period indicated on the most recent Pesticide Label or Material Safety Data Sheet.

Pesticide applications on Department lands which have worker reentry intervals of at least 24 hours and where public exposure is foreseeable shall be posted with warning signs in English and Spanish, and shall contain a warning that the area has been treated with a pesticide and that individuals are not to enter the area. (Food & Agriculture Code § 12978).

0722 MONITORING

The District is responsible for maintaining a separate file of pest control measures used for each park unit, which includes outdoor and indoor pest management. These records shall be kept for 10 years in order to document pest control actions and recurring pest problems.

0723 INTERPRETATION

Although information on pest control and prevention can reach park visitors via several means, interpretation offers the opportunity for in-depth understanding and a higher degree of compliance with reasonable policy. Transport of invasive exotic species and detrimental human-wildlife interactions (e.g., feeding of animals) can lead to pest problems, and should be included in interpretive programs as appropriate.