

The City of
Redlands



Pesticide Handling & Use Policy
Rev. January 2018



PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide The City of Redlands employees and contractors with an overview of Pesticide Handling & Use principles and specific policy-based direction for implementing those principles. It is expected that this policy will ensure that all City operations and contracted services that manage pests or vegetation on City property do so in an environmentally sensitive manner while addressing public health, safety, economic and aesthetics requirements. The policy is in accordance with California Code of Regulations (Title 3. Food and Agriculture) Division 6. Pesticides and Pest Control Operations.

The goals of this policy are to:

1. Create awareness among City staff of Pesticide Handling & Use techniques and environmental stewardship.
2. Provide a means of educating all City departments to practice the most appropriate approach to managing pests on City property.
3. Reduce and/or eliminate pesticides that pose known significant human or animal health, or environmental risks.
4. Establish a program where pesticides categorized as toxic or persistent are used only when a pest is deemed a threat to public health, safety, the environment, or to prevent economic damage (emergency or exception) and only after other alternatives have been attempted and are ineffective. If pesticides are used, provide guidelines on safe storage, handling, use, and application.
5. Promote the use of non-hazardous or reduced risk alternatives that are protective of human and animal health and the environment.

POLICY

The City of Redlands, in carrying out its pesticide operations, shall focus on long-term prevention or suppression of pest problems with minimum negative impact on human health, non-target organisms, and the environment. To this end, preference shall be given to reasonably available non-pesticide alternatives when considering the use of pesticides on City property.

When possible, City staff must employ non-chemical management tactics first. Chemicals are to be used only in accordance with the development of a site-specific plan and shall be selected according to specific areas that are to be treated.

Pesticides are to be applied by, or under the supervision of, a qualified applicator that has been trained in application methods, techniques, safety precautions, pest biology, proper use of personal protective equipment, appropriate storage and handling, environmental concerns, and employee rights regarding pesticide use.

PESTICIDE USE

Pesticides will only be used in those authorized situations where other alternative methods have proven not to be effective or feasible.

The following general and specific practices shall be followed:

GENERAL

- When used, those pesticides with the least toxicity to humans and the environment shall be applied. No category 1 pesticides shall be used within the City Limits except with the specific pre-authorization of the City of Redlands Department Directors or designee to protect the health or safety of the public.
- Prior approval of a Manager/Supervisor, or their designee is required for all applications.
- Applications shall be performed by or under the supervision of a qualified applicator to avoid any hazard to any person or animal in the area or adjacent areas, and to avoid any property damage.
- Application(s) shall be made to time the treatment to weeds' most susceptible stage.
- Care shall be observed not to damage any other plants, especially when applying a non-selective herbicide.
- Spraying shall be confined to target species and drift should be avoided.

SPECIFIC

- No pesticides are to be applied in any designated playground areas unless conditions call for control of a hazardous or noxious pest. In this case, the area would be closed until reentry is deemed safe.
- No pesticides shall be sprayed when weather conditions are:
 - In excess of 10 mile per hour winds
 - Damp or foggy
 - Rainy
 - Extremely cold or hot

Pesticide Training

Any person applying pesticides must have pesticide safety training prior to the use of each pesticide, regardless of toxicity. Training must be updated annually. A record must be made of each employee applying pesticides, and evidence of training certified by the trainer/supervisor. Copies of the record form will be kept by the employee and the Safety & Risk Management Department, and be available to local and State officials.

Training requirements

Training must be performed by a qualified person and cover the following for each pesticide handled:

- Information on the pesticide label concerning human health effects
- Hazards of the pesticide, including acute and long-term effects
- Pesticide poisoning symptoms and routes pesticides can enter the body
- Emergency first aid and how to get emergency medical care
- Routine and emergency decontamination procedures
- Need for, limitations, use, and cleaning of personal protective equipment (PPE)

- Prevention, recognition and first aid for heat-related illnesses
- Safe procedures for handling pesticides, including engineering controls
- Environmental concerns, such as drift and runoff
- Warnings against taking pesticides home
- Regulatory requirements, including Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) and Pesticide Safety Information Series (PSIS)
- Purpose and requirements of medical supervision, when applicable
- Location of hazard communication information
- Employee rights

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The City of Redlands will provide personal protective clothing and equipment to City personnel engaged in the application of pesticides on City of Redlands property as stated on the manufacturer's label. Contractors are required to provide their own PPE.

Documents Required While Applying Pesticides

Any person applying a pesticide on City of Redlands property must have in their possession the following documents:

- Pest control recommendation
- Pesticide label
- Pesticide SDS
- Medical Emergency Contact Information

Reporting of Pesticide Use

At the end of each month, each Crew Supervisor will complete a **Monthly Chemical Use Report (Attachment A)** and return it to the Safety & Risk Management Department. The City of Redlands must then complete and return a **Monthly Summary Pesticide Use Report (Attachment B)** to the San Bernardino County Agricultural Commissioner's Office by the tenth of each month.

Posting of Application Sites

Small freestanding informational signs must be placed at each end of the area being treated. The signs must be placed no more than 300 feet apart and moved along as the material dries. This signage shall include appropriate pesticide awareness and shall not be removed from the site until pesticide spray has dried.

Storage and Disposal

All pesticide storage locations must be posted with visible warning notices highly legible. Any pesticide containers holding one-gallon or less of concentrate and/or three-gallon backpack sprayers with diluted pesticides may be transported outside of the vehicle cab in a manner that will prevent spillage onto the vehicle or off the vehicle.

Empty pesticide containers, other than bags, must be rinsed and drained into the spraying equipment on site by the user, at the time of use, using the triple rinse method. Rinse solution should be applied to the treated areas.

All pesticide containers must be labeled with the following information:

- Name & Manufacturer of the pesticide
- Category of pesticide
- EPA registration number
- Active ingredient
- Entity & Address

Small spills of pesticides should be cleaned up immediately as directed by the SDS of the product. For major toxic pesticide spills, contact the Redlands Fire Department and request Emergency Response Personnel. Note what pesticide it is, category, and if it is threatening to enter the storm drain system.

SCOPE AND CONDITIONS

This policy and procedure applies to all City of Redlands departments, staff and hired contractors that use pesticides in any way. All contractors involved in pest management are to comply with the procedures listed above through coordination with the City staff person coordinating or supervising the contract.

RESPONSIBILITY

Department Heads, Managers and Supervisors

1. Department Heads and Managers shall ensure that departmental procedures, budget, and staffing decisions support implementation of the Pesticide Handling & Use Policy and direction from The Safety & Risk Management Department.
2. The Safety & Risk Management Department shall provide training for field & management staff in the requirements of this Policy.
3. Appropriate personnel will report as required to Department Managers/Supervisors regarding the implementation of the Pesticide Handling & Use Policy.

Safety & Risk Management

1. Coordinating efforts to adopt Pesticide Handling & Use techniques for the City of Redlands.
2. Communication with all staff on the goals and guidelines of the program.
3. Providing training to City staff in the requirements of this Pesticide Handling & Use Policy as well as preparing individuals who handle pesticides in obtaining a QAC.
4. Tracking all pesticide use and ensuring that the information readily available.
5. Filing monthly pesticide use reports with the County and renew the annual pesticide permit.
6. Keep current on all Federal (EPA), State (DPR) and local regulations and provide updates to department personnel.

GLOSSARY

DPR - Department of Pesticide Regulations for the State of California's Environmental Protection Agency. DPR, in partnership with Federal EPA and County Department of Agriculture, oversees all issues regarding the registration, licensing and enforcement of laws and regulations pertaining to pesticides.

EPA- The United States Environmental Protection Agency

Pesticide- Any substance, or mixture of substances, used for defoliating plants, regulating plant

growth, or for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest, which may be detrimental to vegetation, humans, animals or structures.

QAC - Qualified Applicators Certificate is a certified applicator of pesticides according to Title 3, Article 3 of the California Code of Regulations. Applications may include residential, industrial, institutional, landscape, and rights-of-way sites.