**Recommended Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program for Transfer Stations**

**Introduction -** The transfer station is a natural magnet for both insect and animal pests due to nature of the materials collected, the open buildings and containers for collection of these materials, and in some cases, the conditions of the grounds and buildings.

Since these pests pose health risks to both attendants and residents, and can damage property, it is important to prevent people from getting injured or sick from these pests, and to prevent damage. It will help the Town comply with *OSHA 1910.141 (a)(5) general industry standard, 29 CFR 1910 Subpart J - General Environmental Controls,* which covers vermin control at permanent places of employment.

The following recommendations may take an initial effort to establish, but once established, the procedures become integrated into employee responsibilities and are part of the normal operations of the site that help ensure safety of all who work at and use the site.

**Conduct a Site Assessment** – It is highly recommended that this assessment is conducted by a trained pest control operator in order to help you develop an IPM plan. A company could meet with the transfer station supervisor and attendant to determine what pests need to be addressed, assess the site, and generate recommendations for helping you develop your IPM plan.

**Develop and Implement an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan.** The plan should describe procedures and roles and responsibilities for transfer station supervisors, attendants, Town employees, and any contracted service providers for:

* Implementing Pest Prevention Strategies (e.g., sanitation of buildings and grounds, reducing sources of water, food, and harborage).
* Managing Site Vegetation and Site Drainage (e.g., removing vegetation growing against buildings which provides undetected pest access and harborage).
* Conducting Building Repairs (e.g., filling holes in walls, fixing window screens, installing bird netting or spikes to keep them from nesting, etc.)
* Implementing Monitoring Activities - for pests typically encountered at the site. Determine what pests to monitor for, when to monitor which pest at what frequency, and at what threshold (number of pests) action needs to be taken.
* Reporting Pests - to whom and using what process and form (see sample Pest Sighting Form).
* Recordkeeping (e.g., pest sightings, pesticide applications, other prevention and mitigation measures).
* Responding to Pest Problems – preventative and emergency pest treatments (chemical and non-chemical) – determine who will do the treatments:
  + Town employees must get licensed for applying pesticides and using baits.
  + Vendors can be on contract (town or state) or used on an as needed basis.

**Administering the IPM Plan**

* Supervision and Communication - Ensure that there is coordination and communication between Town administrators, involved employees, transfer station supervisors and attendants, and pest control vendors about pest issues, prevention and mitigation measures, and recordkeeping.
* Corrective Actions - Maintain a prioritized list of structural and landscape improvements needed for pest prevention and management, ensure that funds are allocated, and work is completed in a timely manner.
* Program Review - Review the IPM program annually with attendants and any involved employees and vendors (if the Town has one) to determine if issues are identified and adequately addressed, and whether any enhancements need to be made to the program.

**Example of the Types of Pests Identified at Transfer Stations and What Needs to be Monitored.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Rodent** | **Bird** | **Insect** | **Wildlife** |
| **Exterior** | * Evidence of damage to facility * A physical sighting | * Evidence of damage to facility * A physical sighting * Bird droppings and nests | * Evidence of damage to facility * A physical sighting * Insect mounds or nests | * Evidence of damage to facility * A physical sighting * Nesting materials |
| **Interior** | * Physical sighting * Evidence of damage to facility * Droppings, urine * Grease marks and gnawing * Nests | * Physical sighting * Droppings * Nests | * A physical sighting * Evidence of damage to facility * Insect nests or other evidence | * Droppings * Nests |