

## Spring Cleaning & Maintenance

By: Jason Buster

Depending on your districts location in Texas, it is sometimes hard to decide when the best time for seasonal cleanings and maintenance of school facilities. Below are some possible ideas to address when building your plan of action for these types of routines.

### School Buildings

With the change in seasons upon us, taking advantage of this time of year to do seasonal cleaning and preventive maintenance could reduce bigger problems later on in the school year in your buildings.

- Now is a good time of year to get your teacher involved with seasonal cleaning. Most custodians do not have the responsibility or time to clean some of the decorations that teachers sometime introduce to the classrooms. Getting your teachers and other staff involved in “nick nak cleaning” will help eliminate future nuisances down the road such as rodents and other pests. This type of cleaning will also reduce the potential complications with allergenic sensitive individuals.
- Changing stained ceiling tiles out and fixing water leaks is also a good idea in reducing the possibility of future complications. Also visually checking your rooftops for possible water intrusions is also a good preventative maintenance practice.
- With Spring fast approaching, now is also a good time to change all the HVAC filters out, and to clean and perform any HVAC units that you could not get to during the holiday break in December. Spring, means warmer temperatures and clean filters and units will ensure that your systems are running most efficiently.
- If your district is in a part of Texas where you experience problems with bats roosting in your buildings; then now is the time to start trying to eliminate access points to the exterior of your buildings. Having a bat population in your school buildings can greatly reduce a healthy environment within a building and increase the chances of a student contracting rabies.

### Athletics/Stadium Facilities

- Baseball and Softball are starting soon. Now is a great time to make sure that all the facilities are in good shape before games start, and of course the ball fields.
- Fire ant treatments are best made this time of year as well. Be sure to follow all IPM regulations (remember you must be licensed) and label instructions.
- In addition to fire ant treatments, weed pre-emerge treatments are made in February and March as well. Again, be sure to follow all IPM regulations and label instructions on the herbicides as well.
- Now that football season is behind us once again, and as you start storing equipment for next year use please consider some preventative measures. Making sure that all equipment and jerseys, organic in nature or not, are either wiped down or washed and dried before storing. This will reduce the possibility of having mold issues months down the road. Where you are storing equipment not in use is another aspect to consider. If possible placing equipment in a climate controlled environment will also help prevent the possibility of mold growth.
- Taking the time to walk your stadium facilities for all sports is also a way to reduce the hazards to students, faculty and guests. As your facilities grow older materials start to degrade and sometimes break. Catching these hazards whether it is a loose bleacher or broken wooden or metal step in your stadiums is a great way to help eliminate possible accidents.
- Also, this could be a good time to start phasing out old florescent lighting with low-pressure sodium lighting. Low-pressure sodium lighting helps reduce the insect attraction and reduce energy consumption that normal florescent lights do not possess. Areas like field houses, concession stands, stadium restrooms, storage buildings and parking lots are all places to consider.

## Portables

In some instances portable buildings within school districts sometimes get overlooked when talking about annual cleaning and maintenance. Here are some things to think about when dealing with portables on your campuses:

- Before placing a portable building on your campus take note of where you are placing the building. Is it in a low lying area? Is it close to a flood plain? Are you placing the portable on mechanical/plumbing systems? \*Please take in consideration the future of the campus when placing a portable building/storage building. Could you possibly have building additions/demolitions scheduled in the future that would affect the positions of your portable buildings?
- Placing if needed weather/rodent barriers along the ground level of your portables buildings will ensure a longer life span for the building and safe environment for its occupants. Caulking and foaming any entrances down to the size of your pinky and sometimes even smaller; will

ensure that rodents will not be introduced to the structure.

- Many portable building have wooden or metal ramps leading to the entrance that sometimes can become a hazard if not properly maintained. Taking notice of loose or broken hand rails and steps is a good place to start when identifying hazards. Also making sure that the ramps to your portables are ADA compliant is also a major consideration.

### ***Regulatory Update:***

Last week, Thursday January 29<sup>th</sup>, the IPM advisory committee met again to discuss the IPM in schools regulations. OnSite was there, and it looks like it will still be a while before the new regulations get put into effect. Please keep an eye out for more proposed regulations. The meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> really was about changing mostly wording in the regulations, but also about addressing some other concerns as well. Once the proposed regulations are available, we will be sure to send out a link so that you can review them.

## **Upcoming OnSite Training Opportunities**

<b>April</b>	<b>San Angelo ISD (Region 15)</b>		
April 14	Asbestos Designated Person	8 hours	8 a.m.- 5 p.m.
April 15	IPM Coordinator	6 hours	8 a.m.- 3 p.m.
April 16	IAQ Coordinator	6 hours	8 a.m.- 3 p.m.
<b>April</b>	<b>Frisco ISD (Region 10)</b>		
April 14	Asbestos Designated Person	8 hours	8 a.m.- 5 p.m.
April 15	IPM Coordinator	6 hours	8 a.m.- 3 p.m.
April 16	IAQ Coordinator	6 hours	8 a.m.- 3 p.m.
<b>May</b>	<b>Austin TX (TASB Campus)</b>		
May 12	Grounds Management	7 hours	8 a.m.- 4 p.m.
May 13	Hazardous Materials Coordinator	6 hours	8 a.m.- 3 p.m.
May 14	IAQ Coordinator	6 hours	8 a.m.- 3 p.m.
<b>July</b>	<b>Austin TX (TASB Campus)</b>		
July 21	Asbestos Designated Person	8 hours	8 a.m.- 5 p.m.
July 22	IPM Coordinator	6 hours	8 a.m.- 3 p.m.
July 23	Environmental/Facilities Regulatory Compliance	6 hours	8 a.m.- 3 p.m.

### **Fees: OnSite Members *FREE***

#### **Non-members:**

Asbestos Designated Person	\$425
IPM Coordinator	\$425
IAQ Coordinator	\$425
Grounds Management	\$425
Environmental/Facilities	\$325
HAZCOM Coordinator	\$325

### **Contact OnSite:**

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*Please check the web-site for additional information.*