

Greater Harrington Historical Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policy



INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM) POLICY

This policy documents GHHS's commitment to protecting its collections from pest damage.

Introduction

Pest infestation is a serious threat to museum collections. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a holistic pest control strategy focused on eliminating harmful vertebrate and invertebrate pests. The strategy aims to reduce the use of pesticides through good housekeeping, regular monitoring, and targeted treatment. The museum practices IPM to ensure the preservation of the collections and to protect the health and safety of employees and visitors.

Applicability

The Curator is responsible for IPM at GHHS. Since IPM relies on holistic implementation, all GHHS volunteers and staff are encouraged to assist in this effort with good housekeeping and with communication of any pest activity. The museum has contracted with a local pest control company for regular monitoring and technical support.

Support

GHHS supports the IPM program. The organization is dedicated to monthly pest inspections by the staff/volunteers with supplemental inspections by a contracted licensed pest control professional. The contract allows for additional follow-up service as needed. The Curator maintains documentation of monitoring and mitigation. GHHS maintains a small freezer at the Annex for treatment. If treatment beyond freezing is necessary, funds will have to be obtained through grant sources. The artifact(s) may not be stored in any GHHS facility until the needed mitigation is performed, thereby reducing the risk of contamination from the artifact(s).

Training

The Curator will train anyone involved in implementing IPM procedures.

Best Practices

IPM includes the use of good housekeeping techniques; regular monitoring of collections, building and environs; identification of pest species; inspection and isolation of all incoming collections material including loans; and treatment in the safest manner for collections and staff. IPM procedures follow museum industry best practices as shared through the IPM Working Group. Licensed pest control contractors apply pesticide as necessary, following all applicable regulations. The following practices are included in the program:

1. Live plants or animals, food and beverage storage and consumption are not permitted in the collection storage and exhibit spaces unless approved by the Board or Curator. Service animals are exempt from this policy.
2. Public spaces where food and beverages are consumed are cleaned routinely and immediately particularly following special events.
3. Maintaining good housekeeping practices is critical in discouraging insect infestations. Refer to the Housekeeping and Maintenance Policy for details on these practices.
4. Incoming objects or specimens will be isolated and examined and treated by freezing or anoxic 30 treatment if necessary.
5. Sticky traps are used to monitor the presence of pests with traps checked monthly and recorded by the Curator.

Monitoring

All volunteers and staff will regularly monitor for vertebrate and invertebrate pests. Pest monitoring includes the use of blunder or baited traps, visual inspection of critical areas, and pest sighting reports from museum and catering staff.

Remedial Action

If monitoring identifies a pest infestation or a concerning rise of indicator insects, the Curator will increase trapping and monitoring frequency to identify a source. Infested collections objects are first isolated, and then treated with least toxic measures such as temperature modification or anoxia. If the infestation persists, staff may consider using chemical pesticides after consultation with the Curator. Infested areas are thoroughly cleaned and regularly inspected. If the infestation persists, the licensed pest control contractor may engage in targeted pesticide application. Vertebrate pests are controlled through exclusion and mechanical trapping within the building. Exterior baiting controls vertebrate pests on the property to limit their entry.

Documentation

The Curator maintains documentation for all IPM activities and documents object pest control treatments in the condition report files. The required documentation is attached to this policy. It shall be available to members at the monthly meeting and as requested.

This policy shall be reviewed every three years for accuracy and changes.

Document Status: Final

Prepared by: Doug Poore

Reviewed by: Strategic Planning Committee

Approved by: Membership

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Revision Cycle: 3 years

Last reviewed:

Next Revision:

Primary Policy Steward: Curator



Greater Harrington Historical Society Pest Control Monitoring Form

Site (please circle) Annex Church Train Tower Caboose

Date and Time of Inspection _____

Inspected by _____

Management of Physical Facility

Is there debris or garbage accumulation outside the structure?

Yes No N/A

Are outside garbage containers clean and properly covered?

Yes No N/A

Are the doors or other openings to the outside of the building tightly fitted (no visible light showing through)?

Yes No N/A

Are all screens for windows and doors in place and tightly fitted and in good repair?

Yes No N/A

Is there an accumulation of spilled food, liquid, or dust?

Yes No N/A

Do all food containers have lids?

Yes No N/A

Are all food products stored off the floor?

Yes No N/A

Are all interior garbage containers being emptied as needed?

Yes No N/A

Investigating for Evidence of Pests

Is there any evidence of mouse droppings or mouse urine staining?

Yes No N/A

Are chew marks visible on any boxes or materials in the facility?

Yes No N/A

Are there insects present on sticky traps throughout the facility?

Yes No N/A

Is there evidence of nesting (piles of dust, debris, insulation, etc., in quiet areas)?

Yes No N/A

Recommendations _____

Inspector's Full Name and Signature
