



## **Association of Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials and National Pest Management Association Outdoor Residential Misting Systems Best Management Practices (BMPs)**

March 15, 2007

Outdoor Residential Misting System Best Management Practices are designed to set and improve the standards under which Outdoor Residential Misting Systems in urban settings are sold, installed, and serviced.

These best management practices have been endorsed by the Association of Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials (ASPCRO) and the National Pest Management Association (NPMA). ASPCRO is a national association representing government agencies that regulate the use of pesticides in commercial, residential, institutional and industrial settings. NPMA is a national trade association that represents approximately 5,000 companies that provide pest management services, including residential and commercial mosquito control.

### **BMP 1. General Qualifications**

All Outdoor Residential Misting Systems must be designed, installed and serviced by a company that is a commercial applicator company. The company:

1. Must be insured in accordance with the requirements of the state in which an installation is to occur.
2. Must employ a person who is certified by the state pesticide regulatory agency in the appropriate certification category, and
3. Any person employed by the company that sells, supervises the installation or services the systems must undergo training as described below.

### **BMP 2. Advertising**

In its advertising, any company that sells, installs or services Outdoor Residential Misting Systems should comply with the "Advertising Standards for the Outdoor Residential Misting System Industry," adopted by the Association of Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials (ASPCRO) and the National Pest Management Association (NPMA) on March 15, 2007.

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### **BMP 3. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Practices**

1. Any company that sells, services, or installs Outdoor Residential Misting Systems must provide IPM services to its customers including the following components:

- Inspection
- Identification of target pests
- Employ appropriate pest management measures
- Educate customers about conducive conditions, the presence of pest larval production habitat and other issues related to preventing or managing the pest problem
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the management measures
- Provide customer with a written report

2. All technicians and sales personnel must be trained in accordance with the proper application of these techniques.

3. The company must provide customers with an information sheet communicating the components of the IPM process.

### **BMP 4. Minimum Training Requirements**

1. All companies must ensure that all employees who sell, design, supervise the installation and service an Outdoor Residential Misting System receive at least 4 hours of classroom training and 8 hours of field training in the following areas:

- Mosquito biology and identification
- Mosquito prevention
- Integrated pest management (IPM) for mosquitoes
- Mosquito Misting System installation, operation, and service

2. All employees who sell, design, supervise the installation and service an Outdoor Residential Misting System earn the equivalent of eight hours of verifiable continuing education each year, consisting of general pest, laws and regulations and safety.

3. Installers, sales personnel and service technicians must comply with the license, certification, or registration requirements of the states(s), tribes(s), or local authority (ies) of the jurisdiction in which the system is installed.

### **BMP 5. Installation Procedures**

1. The design of each mosquito misting systems must be performed by persons licensed or registered by the state, tribe or other required regulatory authorities as described above.

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During the installation of an outdoor residential misting system, an individual trained as described above must be present at the installation site.

2. The system must be configured, installed and operated so that pesticides applied by the system do not drift off the property on which it is installed.
3. Direct nozzles to spray towards the target area and away from swimming pools, water bodies, or eating and cooking areas.
4. Override procedures outlining instructions for shutting off the system should be printed on or attached to all systems with an additional copy presented to the customer.
5. Systems should never be installed for the purpose of both delivering an insecticide and water for evaporative cooling.
6. When used in a system with a reservoir tank for the end use dilution, the system reservoir tank must be locked. Securely attach the end use pesticide label and a dilution statement to the system reservoir tank in a weather protected area or weather proof sealable plastic sleeve. The dilution statement must be phrased as follows: this container holds \_\_\_\_\_ parts (product name) to \_\_\_\_\_ parts water.
7. The statement "Do Not Use When People, Pets or Food Are Present" must be displayed in one half inch letters on the control unit or reservoir and at least once in the system instruction manual in a font size consistent with the body text, unless labeled for that use.
8. If used in a direct injection system or comparable system, the pesticide container must be locked. Securely attach the end use label to the pesticide container in a weather protected area or a weather proof sealable plastic sleeve.
9. A specimen label of the material(s) contained within the system should be provided and reviewed with the customer at the time of installation. An additional Specimen Label must be attached to the system in a weatherproof pouch or other appropriate container.
10. Systems must be calibrated to apply no more than the maximum application rate represented on the label which identifies the amount of active ingredient allowed per 1000 cubic feet per day.
11. The system must be configured, installed and operated so that any pesticide applied by the system is used according to label directions, including application rate, restricted entry intervals and prohibitions against offsite drift.
12. Pesticides that state "Not for use in outdoor residential misting systems" may not be used under any circumstances. It is strongly recommended that only products specifically labeled for use in outdoor residential misting systems be used. As of February 2007,

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EPA has only assessed the use of pyrethrins, permethrin and piperonyl butoxide (PBO) in residential systems, and labels are in the process of being amended to include appropriate directions for this use. No other conventional insecticide should be used in a misting system even though it may be registered for outdoor residential sites.

### **BMP 6. Service Procedures**

1. Service on all systems must be performed by employees trained and licensed as described above.
2. Automatic timing mechanisms should be set to operate at times when people and pets are not in the area. The customer must be given written notification of the scheduled operation times.
3. The company that installs the system must provide the consumer with a specimen label, information about the operation of the system and information detailing the consumer's obligations, which obligations shall include:
  - Emergency shut off instructions in the event of excessive wind or rain.
  - Report to the responsible company any damage resulting from excavation, or other projects in and around the system and its components
  - Report periods of extended power loss that may result in timer or memory failure in the controller.
  - Report in advance construction or landscape plans that may affect the operation of the system or its components.
  - Immediately report any staining or plant discoloration to the responsible company.
4. The customer must sign a statement attesting that he/she has read, understands and will follow the specimen label, information about the operation of the system and his/her obligations relating to the operation of the system.
5. During all regularly scheduled service visits, but not less than once each year the responsible company will perform a complete inspection of the system and its components as described below providing a written report to the customer to include any corrective action taken by the company or required by the customer including instructions on harborage site removal or correction and other non chemical controls to improve the condition of the site.
  - Visually inspect the system during operation to ensure that it is working properly, its clock is accurate, its top is locked in place, its cover is securely fitted over the outside lip of the top, the timed cycles are properly set, the lock has not been tampered with and the system is delivering its misting product in full and strict compliance with the label for such product.

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- Visually inspect each area that is serviced by the system to include all nozzle placements, paying attention to the condition of foliage and the surfaces of any structure or other item located within or near the area serviced by the system. If signs of plant burn or staining exist adjust or relocate the nozzle.
- Visual inspection of the tubing and exposed connectors, to ensure tight fit. Additionally, inspect for wear and circumstances that may result in damage if not corrected, making necessary correction or report to customer when necessary.

### **BMP 7. Consumer Information/Disclosure**

The following additional information will be provided the customer prior to purchase.

- Information about integrated pest management (IPM) for controlling mosquito populations
- Pesticide label
- Proper use instructions for the Outdoor Residential Misting System
- Emergency shut off procedures
- Service and warranty information