Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

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Volunteer Use of Pesticides in Nature Preserves and Natural Areas
2018 Herbicide Operator Licensing Procedures

To obtain a license as a volunteer public herbicide operator through the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission follow the instructions below. Please note that the Illinois Department of Agriculture now charges an annual fee of $15 for operator licenses.

For new operators and those retesting (renewals skip to step 5):

1) Obtain a Volunteer Herbicide Testing Identification Card from your volunteer coordinator for the owner of the property. This should have the sponsoring agencies address listed.

2) Take the general standards test given by the Illinois Department of Agriculture. Use the name and address information provided on the Identification Card to fill out the test papers. Be sure that you use the same agency name and address as the applicator that your will be licensed under. **Do not put your home address on the application!**

3) When the application arrives in the mail, complete the information needed for a Public Pesticide Operator license.

4) Complete steps 6, 7, and 8 below.

For renewals:

5) The address on the application should be the address of the landowner/manager of the property that you work on (sponsoring agency; See 2 above)

6) Determine who your which applicator you will be working under. **If you have not been assigned to an applicator you are not eligible for an operator license and must obtain an applicator license.**

7) Provide the name and license number (if available) of your applicator on the application. Please note that there must be at least one licensed applicator at each site.

8) Give the application to your applicator, volunteer coordinator or directly mailing the application to IDOA for processing. Note that you will not receive your license until your applicator receives his or hers.

9) Sign the "Volunteer Agreement & Indemnification for Pesticide Application and submit it to the volunteer coordinator.