

November 2016



Pesticide Applications Near Schools

New regulations are coming

DPR has proposed a new regulation which would require growers to notify public K-12 schools, child day care facilities and the County Ag Commissioner when certain applications are made within ¼ mile of a school site. A school site includes the buildings or structures, playgrounds, athletic fields, vehicles or a parking lot, or any other area visited or used by students. A school site does not include family day care homes, private schools, junior colleges, universities or school bus stops outside of school grounds.

The proposed regulation only applies to production agriculture. The following is a brief summary of the proposed regulation. For details, please read the complete proposed regulation found in the link at the end of this article.

The Proposal:

Application Restrictions – Beginning October 1, 2017 (Monday through Friday) between the hours of 6am and 6pm, growers will be prohibited from using fumigants and using pesticides if they are applied by aircraft, sprinklers, or air-blast equipment.

Notification of pesticide applications – Growers would be required to provide two types of notifications to a school or child day-care facility within a ¼ mile of a production site:

- **Annual Notification** – Beginning in 2018, DPR proposes to require annual notification by April 30th of each year and the notice would cover all possible pesticide applications that will happen within a ¼ mile of a school within the upcoming fiscal year: (July 1st through June 30th). The notice would include:
 - The name of the pesticide and the main active ingredients
 - A map showing the location of the field to be treated
 - Contact information for the grower/operator and the County Ag Commissioner
 - The web address for the National Pesticide Information Center
- **Application-specific Notification** – Must be provided to the school or child day-care facility 48 hours before each application.
 - Name of the pesticide and the main active ingredient to be used
 - Specific location of the application and the number of acres to be treated
 - Earliest date and time of the application

Because of the wide variety of variables with California's microclimates and school extracurricular activities, there will be an allowance for schools and or day-care facilities, the grower, and the Commissioner to develop alternative written agreements to which all three parties must agree to.

Comments?

If you have comments, the comment period has been extended to December 9, 2016 at 5pm. There will be a meeting at the Exhibition Mall of the Salinas Sports Complex on December 1st at 6pm.

<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/legbills/rulepkgs/16-004/16-004.htm>

Complete Text of the proposal:

http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/legbills/rulepkgs/16-004/16-004_notice.pdf

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Pest Diagnostic Lab Service

The State Lab will now charge a fee for pest ID.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture has a state of the art plant and pest laboratory in Sacramento staffed with experts in the fields of botany, entomology, nematology, and plant pathology. Up until now, the State offered a free identification service for insects, plants, and plant pathogens. Starting on November 14, 2016 that changed.

The laboratory is very expensive to run and due to budget shortfalls, they have had to resort to charging for their pest identification services. This new fee will effect growers, arborists, pest control companies, maintenance gardeners, and samples sent in connection with phytosanitary certifications. The lab will send a bill through the mail after they receive the sample.

To see the fee schedule visit this website:

www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/ppd/feeschedule.html

By far, the lab we use the most is the entomology lab. When you click on “entomology” in the link above, it states their fees are based on a \$17.50 / quarter hour charge. Not knowing how long it take the lab to make a determination, we e-mailed the lab the question: “How long does a typical determination take?” This was their answer:

The amount of time spent on an identification will vary from submission to submission. Some will fall within that 15 minute window, but there is no way to predict what the majority of submissions will be. Some samples may take longer to identify due to factors in that particular taxon, the condition of the specimens submitted, the sex or life stage of the specimens, etc.

So, in order to minimize the costs, be sure to provide as many specimens as possible (without overcrowding the vial!) and be sure to package the specimen according to the laboratories instructions to minimize damage or degradation. Our lab contact did say that if DNA sequencing was needed, they would contact the submitter before going to that step.

In order to submit samples to the laboratory, we need to process them through the State database and generate a document called a Pest Damage Report (PDR). Our office has access to this database and we generate a PDR with each sample we send to the state laboratory. If you have a specimen you cannot identify, please feel free to continue to bring your specimens to us so we can send them to the laboratory, just be advised you’ll now receive a bill for the identification service.

Busting Bugs: USDA Creates Online Tools to ID Pests

Posted by Natalie Loggans, USDA, APHIS, Public Affairs

Created by USDA-APHIS’ Identification Technology Program (ITP), ID Tools helps agency staff to quickly identify pests, including insects, diseases, harmful weeds, and more, through an efficient, online database system. ID Tools currently includes more than 30 websites covering a vast array of pests and pests associated with specific commodities. These tools help to keep international cargo—and economic activity—moving as efficiently as possible at U.S. ports of entry. However, ITP’s ID Tools web site, which receives about 12,000 visitors a month, is not for experts alone.

“One of our main reasons for creating ID Tools is to empower non-experts—including students, educators, and the general public—with access to expert information,” said ITP Coordinator Dr. Terrence Walters. “With many experienced researchers, Extension specialists, pest identifiers, and other professionals retiring, we saw a crucial need to capture their identification expertise in digital format and provide it to the next generation before it was too late.”

Using identification key software called “Lucid,” users select a specimen’s distinguishing characteristics (e.g., color, shape, size) with the aid of illustrations and photographs; they don’t need to know the scientific terms for the specimen’s anatomy. Each characteristic they choose can eliminate up to hundreds of possibilities and lets them quickly narrow the search to the exact species. Users will find Lucid keys in the majority of the tools.

For example, if you wanted to use ID Tools to identify a terrestrial mollusc (think slugs and snails) that you believe is a pest species, you would first choose whether the creature has a shell. This choice immediately narrows down the possibilities, making the system vastly more efficient than a text version. That efficiency is especially important if you are using the ID Tools’ Terrestrial Mollusc Tool on the job.

If you feel that identifying characteristics is not your style, ID Tools offers users a wonderful diversity of other media to support the identification process. Many of the tools contain an image gallery, glossary, visual dictionary, and species fact sheets with descriptions and diagnostic images. Try out ID Tools for yourself by visiting this website:

<http://www.idtools.org/identify.php>

2016 Pesticide Horror Stories

DPR compiled pesticide illnesses



These cautionary tales are merely a sample of the preventable deaths, unnecessary sicknesses, hospitalizations, and serious injuries reported to the California Department of Pesticide Regulation ([DPR](#)) this year.

Unfortunately, these stories are real – not fiction – and they highlight the importance of heeding warning signs, properly storing pesticides, and following pesticide label instructions and other laws. Since some of these real-life cases are still under investigation by local agricultural commissioners' offices, DPR will not identify the people involved or discuss potential violations/fines. ... We have injected some humor in these stories, but they should still hopefully put a chill on consumers who otherwise might mishandle pesticides.

Dangerous drink

A Reedley-area boy was hospitalized in mid-May after drinking an herbicide stored in a beverage container. The boy's grandfather had discovered a grocery bag sitting in the yard with a bottle of what appeared to be a sports drink inside. The boy's grandmother put the bottle in the refrigerator to cool it off, she told an investigator. While she was not looking, the boy took it from the refrigerator, had a sip and began to scream. The boy's father said the bottle contained glyphosate. He took the boy to a hospital emergency room. He was hospitalized for four hours, vomiting.

The father reportedly told investigators he'd gotten the glyphosate from a friend who had a one-gallon container, likely purchased at a retail store. The case remains under investigation by Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner.

Injuries arising from people consuming pesticides stored in improper containers are sad but all too common. Takeaway: Sharing is great but do it safely. It's dangerous to store pesticides in food or drink containers. It is also against the law.

Another container scare

A 38-year-old man who works at a Merced County dairy was seriously sickened in August when he accidentally drank formaldehyde stored in a soda bottle at his work station. The man immediately recognized his error,

became very anxious, had difficulty breathing and went home. There, he said, he vomited and suffered extreme pain in his legs. He was seen the next day at a local hospital but refused to stay for overnight observation. However, the next day he was admitted "due to his complaint of feeling like he's burning internally." The man was later discharged.

It's unclear how the chemical got in the bottle. However, formaldehyde is commonly used at dairies as a disinfectant. The Merced County Agricultural Commissioner's Office continues to investigate the case. - Again, don't store pesticides in food or drink containers.

Fumigant tent death

Los Angeles County reported deaths and injuries this year involving people entering tented buildings undergoing fumigation. In one case, in August, a man died several hours after entering a tented building for what was an apparent burglary attempt. An incident report says the man, 25, was exposed to the chemicals being used to fumigate. He was inside for three hours before neighbors heard him calling for help and dialed 911, according to a police report. After emergency responders retrieved him, he was taken to a local hospital suffering symptoms including breathing difficulty, skin rash and drooling. Unfortunately, he later died.

Mosquito repellent horror

In late July, a 12-year-old boy attending an arts camp in Riverside County was sickened after he repeatedly applied 98 percent DEET to his body, face and mouth area. The boy's father told the county agricultural commissioner's office investigators that his son had gotten the DEET at a camp store after a repellent his mother had given him didn't provide him relief from mosquitoes. Responding to screams from children in the sleeping area, counselors found the boy that night lying unconscious in a doorway. His symptoms included hallucinations and excessive pupil dilation, in addition to drowsiness. He was taken by ambulance to a hospital for treatment and was ultimately hospitalized for 2 ½ days, as he was being treated with medications to control seizures. The Riverside CAC has contacted the camp about possibly restricting or monitoring pesticide sales to minors. The case remains under investigation. Moral of the story? More is not always better. Read the label.

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Bed bug scare

A woman in September reportedly sprayed her 5-year-old grandchild with an unidentified “bedbug spray.” Later that day, the child experienced possible seizures, according to a preliminary poison control report. The child was admitted to the intensive-care unit at a local hospital. The child was discharged about 36 hours after the exposure. The Alameda County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office continues to investigate. Moral of the story? Make sure Grandma reads the pesticide label.

Bleach scare

In October, a 35-year-old woman in Los Angeles County was hospitalized after she mixed bleach with another cleaner while in the process of cleaning her house. According to a preliminary incident report, she suffered chlorine gas inhalation. Chlorine gas can result from mixing bleach with cleaning products like ammonia. Her breathing labored, the woman was taken to local hospitals and was released. The Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner's office is investigating this episode. Moral of the story? Having a clean house shouldn't kill you.

A takeaway from all these stories?

It's critical to follow label instructions (That includes not mixing pesticides or cleaners with other chemicals unless directed). It's also extremely important to heed warning signs, and to not store pesticides in food or beverage containers.

Pesticide Use Reporting On-Line

By *Biologist Kristian Barbeau*

Many businesses have switched over to reporting their pesticide use electronically through the Cal-Ag Permits website. This change has significantly reduced the number of paper reports that the County receives, and with continued effort, we may one day become completely paperless.

User comments have been positive and many have said that using the system is easy. Growers have stated “it has been nice to have all the information stored and available when needed”.

If you are one of our holdouts or are unsure about signing up for this service; I am available to help anyone who needs a little guidance on the use of the system! My phone numbers is (408) 201-0650 and my email is: Kristian.Barbeau@cep.sccgov.org Give me a call so I can set you up!

DPR Newsbox

DPR News Blog

Sacramento Bee: Farm workers sickened by pesticide to receive restitution

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/local/health-and-medicine/article111717217.html>

Owners of a West Sacramento farm will pay \$23,565 in costs, penalties and restitution after spraying farm workers with pesticides, Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced Monday. The District Attorney’s investigation found that Bypass Farms sprayed at least nine farm workers with pesticides on Aug. 18, 2014, after failing to follow pesticide instructions and warn the workers of the planned pesticide application. The farm workers who were sprayed immediately began experiencing various symptoms consistent with pesticide exposure – including headaches, nausea and vomiting – and had to go to the hospital.

Yolo County Superior Court Judge Timothy L. Fall ordered Bypass Farms to pay the amount after parties reached an agreement on this and other terms through a stipulation, according to a District Attorney’s Office news release. “The failure to follow pesticide regulations can lead to serious injury to farm workers, as this case unfortunately shows,” Reisig said in a written statement. “The District Attorney’s Office is committed to enforcing environmental and workplace safety laws that protect workers from this kind of behavior and to preventing these violations from reoccurring.”

Under the terms of the settlement, Bypass Farms will pay the costs, penalties and restitution to those harmed by the pesticide and is required to use pesticides in a manner that better protects farm workers. The restitution funds will reimburse those sprayed for lost personal items and uncompensated sick time, authorities said.

Bypass Farms has cooperated with the investigation and, in recent months, has implemented new policies and procedures designed to prevent future violations of pesticide safety, according to the District Attorney’s Office.