

Fumigant Notification Recommendations

A community & farmworker perspective

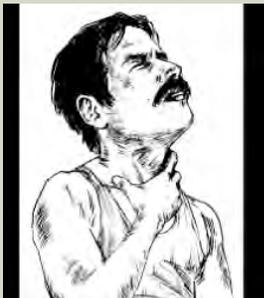
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Best practices
to protect
community
health

FUMIGANTS POSE A THREAT TO COMMUNITY HEALTH

- Soil fumigants are highly toxic and prone to drifting away from fields and onto nearby workers and other community members



Images: Líderes Campesinas

DOCUMENTED ILLNESSES FROM FUMIGANTS

Between 2003 and 2012, at least 30 fumigant drift incidents affected over 800 people

Incident	Description
Monterey 2005	Nighttime drift from a tarped chloropicrin drift application affected residents <u>2 to 3 miles</u> from the treated field
Ventura 2009	Students & cafeteria workers at a school <u>1/3 mile</u> from a chloropicrin fumigation suffered burning eyes, nausea and sore throats
Santa Barbara 2010	Workers installing solar panels on an industrial building <u>1,800 feet</u> from a chloropicrin fumigation felt irritant symptoms of burning eyes, wheezing, lightheadedness, vomiting
Monterey 2012	Field crews <u>700 and 2,000 feet</u> from a chloropicrin treated field began harvesting lettuce at <u>4 am</u> and began to experience eye tearing, headache and nausea around 6 am

CALIFORNIA NEEDS NOTIFICATION

- Air monitoring confirms that fumigant concentrations in the air exceed DPR's "target" levels
- California is unique with homes and schools located very close to fields – notification is necessary!
- With notification, community members can take precautions



McKinnon School, Salinas

IMPROVE ON METHYL BROMIDE NOTIFICATION

- Much larger notification zone – 1 mile
- Retain written bilingual notices – add graphic and delete pre-request requirement
- Retain 7 day, 48 hour notices, re-notice if 12 hour delay in fumigation
- Add health effects, emergency medical reimbursement and field location information
- Secondary robo-call notification from schools to parents needed



6447.1. METHYL BROMIDE FIELD FUMIGATION NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

(b) Notification to ~~Property Operators~~. **Residences including Employee Housing, Schools, other Institutions and Businesses**

(1) within **one mile** ~~300 feet~~ of perimeter of buffer zone

- Notification in writing, in English and Spanish **with a DPR designed graphic of field posted with fumigation sign.**
- **Option of asking for supplementary notification by email or robo-call for future fumigations**
- *How will Indigenous Mexican and Central American and Hmong populations be notified? Outreach to sign up for email or robo-call audio recordings?*



THE NOTIFICATION SHOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- (A) The name of the chemical(s) to be applied;
- (B) Name, business address, and business telephone number of the operator of the property to be treated;
- (C) Name, business address, and business telephone number of the commissioner **and night and weekend contact procedure;**
- (D) Poisoning symptoms* and chronic health risks including any Proposition 65 listings and web link for label and MSDS/SDS**
- (E) Address of application block* to be fumigated and map of area around field**
- (F) What to do and who to call if exposed* and explanation of state's pesticide drift emergency medical reimbursement process**

Sample notice information should be prepared by DPR

***Response info required for neighbors on 2012 labels**

INSTITUTIONS NEED TO NOTIFY PARENTS, EMPLOYEES....

When a school is in a notification zone parents should be notified of fumigation by robo-call with the notice posted on school website and central bulletin board

- **DPR should prepare sample call script.**
- Other institutions and businesses should post written notice in an accessible location and notify on-site employees.



Gabilan School, Salinas

ADDITIONAL NOTIFICATION NEEDED

1. When Air Monitoring Shows Elevated Concentrations of Fumigants

- State agencies should be required to notify county Boards of Supervisors, County Agricultural Commissioners, other local decision makers and residents about pesticide air monitoring results that exceed any target levels for health protection within 1 month of compiling air monitoring data

2. When Fumigant Use Caps are Exceeded

- Decision makers & residents should be notified immediately when any township cap or other use limit adopted to reduce risk of cancer or other chronic health risk is reached or exceeded



Photograph by Department of Pesticide Regulation

FUMIGATION NOTIFICATION IS ONLY A START...

- Use of soil fumigants needs to be phased out and replaced with alternative methods to control soil pests that are healthier for workers, rural neighborhoods and the soil.



Anaerobic Soil Disinfestation of a Strawberry Field