



New Pesticide Regulation Calls for Notification and Buffer Zones When Applying Near Schoolsites



On September 30th, the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) released the notice, DPR 16-004 - Pesticide Use Near Schoolsites. The notice covers the proposed regulations that would change the way agricultural pesticides can be used on farms near schools.

The proposed regulation would do the following:

- Prohibit many pesticide applications within a quarter mile of public K-12 schools and child day-care facilities from Monday through Friday between 6am and 6pm. These include all applications by aircraft, sprinklers, air-blast and all fumigant applications. In addition most dust and/or powder pesticide applications such as sulfur would also be prohibited during this time.
 - There are some exemptions for bait stations and ground rigs or handheld sprayers that are used to apply pesticides that are not dust or powder.
- Require California growers and pest control contractors to notify public K-12 schools and child day-care facilities and county agricultural commissioners (CACs) when certain pesticide applications are made within a quarter mile of these schools and facilities.



Under the proposed regulation, growers would be required to provide two types of notifications to a school or child day-care facility:

- An annual written notification that lists all the pesticides expected to be used during the upcoming year. This must be provided to the school or child day-care facility administrator by April 30th each year. The notice must include among other things:
 - The name of pesticide products (and the main active ingredient) to be used
 - A map showing the location of the field to be treated
 - Contact information for the grower/operator and the CAC
 - The web address for the National Pesticide Information Center where additional sources of information or facts on pesticides may be obtained
 - Grower must keep record of this notification for 2 years
- An application-specific notification which must be provided in writing to the school or child day-care facility 48 hours before each application is made. This begins Jan 1, 2018 and must include among other things:
 - Name of pesticide products (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
 - Grower must keep record of this notification for 2 years

California has varying microclimates and schools have various extracurricular school activities. Therefore, the regulation will allow the individual school or child day-care facility, the grower and the CAC to develop an alternative written agreement, to which all three parties must consent, that provides equal or more protection than the regulation. This agreement will be enforced by the CAC.

For a copy of the complete purposed regulation visit: <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/legbills/rulepkgs/16-004/16-004.htm>