

AGRICULTURE / WEIGHTS & MEASURES



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Fred Crowder

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TO: SAN MATEO COUNTY GROWERS AND NURSERYMEN
FROM: FRED W. CROWDER, AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDE USE NEAR SCHOOLSITES

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) has adopted new regulations which additionally regulate agricultural pesticide applications near public K-12 schools and licensed child day care facilities (collectively called schoolsites). These regulations took effect on January 1, 2018 with a goal of providing additional protections to school children when agricultural pesticide are applied nearby.

California growers with fields that are within a quarter mile of a schoolsite must notify the principal or administrator by April 30th of all pesticides they expect to use for the following July-June school year. Schoolsites do not include family day care homes or private schools. Notification must include **all** pesticides, even organic materials and those which are exempt from pesticide registration.

CCR §6692 Annual Notification

- (a) For all applications of pesticides expected to be made for the production of an agricultural commodity within ¼ mile of a schoolsite, the operator of the property to be treated shall provide annual notification to those specified in (b) no later than **April 30** of pesticide(s) expected to be used from July 1 of the current year through June 30 of the next year.
- (b) The annual notification must be provided to:
 - (1) The principal of the public K-12 school
 - (2) The administrator of the child day care facility; and
 - (3) The county agricultural commissioner

These new regulations **restrict certain types of pesticide applications made within a quarter mile of a schoolsite** during school hours, Monday – Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. These include applications by aircraft; sprinklers, airblast sprayers, fumigants and dust applications, such as sulfur. Pesticide applications involving backpack sprayers and ground rigs without forced air can occur during the 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. period as long as they are more than 25 feet from a schoolsite. Greenhouse applications are exempt from the minimum buffer requirement.

Online resources including factsheets, notification templates and training documents can be found on our website at www.smcgov.org/agwm with a link to CDPR's website at: www.cdpr.ca.gov/schoolnotify.

You can view the schoolsites within ¼ mile of your agricultural sites and **submit your annual notifications online** in CalAgPermits.org, if you have an Operator Identification Number (Op ID) or Restricted Material Permit, and a web logon. Growers must keep a copy of notification for 2 years. If you need to use a material not on the initial notification, an amendment must be submitted and schoolsites notified 48 hours prior to use.

My staff is available to help you through the notification process if you have questions; want to know how these regulation changes apply to your operation; or want to request a web logon or Op ID. Please contact your district biologist or our main office at (650) 363-4700 or by email at SMateoAg@smcgov.org.

Enclosure