Pesticide Safety: It's the Law

To: Employer of Pesticide Handlers and/or Field Workers

Employers must provide a safe workplace.

You are receiving this notice because an inspection has been performed on employees under your control and one or more safety violations were noted.

Violations of pesticide laws and regulations jeopardize the safety of employees, the public and the environment. You must take immediate corrective action and should expect a re-inspection to verify compliance.

How much do work-related injuries cost California employers each year?

More than $9 billion.

Employer responsibilities are found in Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 6702(b). This section states that the employer shall inform the employee, in a language the employee understands, of the specific pesticide being used, pesticide safety hazards, the personal protective equipment and other equipment to be used, work procedures to be followed, and pesticide safety regulations applicable to all activities they may perform. The employer shall supervise employees to *assure* that employees comply with safe work practices, including all applicable regulations and pesticide product labeling requirements.

Who has the highest rate of job-related pesticides injuries?

Pesticide handlers.

Depending on the nature of the violation(s) found and your past compliance history, you could be fined up to $5,000 per violation. You may also be subject to action against your license or restricted material permit.

A list of civil penalty actions (including the companies or individuals cited, the violation and the fine) can be found on DPR's Web site, www.cdpr.ca.gov. Click on the "Compliance Assistance and Worker Safety" page for the link.

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