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**WORKSHOPS TO BE HELD  
ON NEW PESTICIDE WORKER PROTECTION RULES**

SACRAMENTO -- New federal regulations impacting workers who are potentially exposed to agricultural pesticides will be the focus of a series of workshops to be held by Cal/EPA's Department of Pesticide Regulation.

"The purpose of the workshops is to inform the regulated community about the new Federal Worker Protection Standards," said Doug Okumura, chief of DPR's Pesticide Enforcement Branch.

Okumura said that most of the new national standards should not have a major impact in California, where a comprehensive pesticide worker protection program has been in place for some time.

"However, there will be some areas where a major impact may occur, and we will have to make some changes to comply with elements in the nationwide standards," said Okumura. "We want to give the public an opportunity to provide input on how we should integrate the new federal provisions into California's existing pesticide worker safety program."

The new federal regulations apply to pesticides used in production of agricultural plants on farms, and in forests, greenhouses, and nurseries. Employers whose workers handle pesticides for these uses, or that are exposed to residues in treated fields, will be required to comply with the new provisions. The regulations are designed to reduce the risks of injury or illness from these occupational exposures.

"We would like to invite pesticide user groups, farm worker advocacy groups, and other interested persons who may be affected by the changes to learn more about the regulations, and participate in the discussion, and provide input," said Okumura.

The following workshops have been scheduled:

May 4, 1993                      2 to 4 p.m.  
Imperial Irrigation District Auditorium  
1285 Broadway  
El Centro

May 5, 1993                      5 to 7 p.m.  
San Diego County Farm Bureau  
1670 East Valley Parkway

	Escondido
May 11, 1993	1 to 3 p.m. Shasta County Department of Agriculture 3179 Bechelli Lane, Room 210 Redding
May 17, 1993	6 to 8 p.m. Sacramento County Department of Agriculture 4137 Branch Center Road, Room 34 Sacramento
May 18, 1993	1 to 3 p.m. UC Kearney Agriculture Center 9240 S. Riverbend Avenue Parlier
May 20, 1993	1 to 3 p.m. Sonoma County Farm Bureau 970 Piner Road Santa Rosa
June 8, 1993	10 a.m. - Noon Veterans Memorial Building, Studio Room 313 W. Tunnel Street Santa Maria
June 24, 1993	6 to 8 p.m. Salinas Community Center (Santa Lucia Room) 940 N. Main Street Salinas

Persons interested in reviewing the text of the Federal Worker Protection Standards should ask a local public library for a copy of the August 21, 1992, *Federal Register*, Volume 57, Number 163.

DPR has also prepared a summary of the new standards. For a free copy, please contact Roy Rutz, Worker Health and Safety Branch, Department of Pesticide Regulation, 1220 N Street, Sacramento 95814, phone (916) 654-0376.

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