



Brian R. Leahy
Director

Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

July 28, 2015

WHS 15-01

TO: County Agricultural Commissioners

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF THE 2013 PESTICIDE ILLNESS SURVEILLANCE
PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT

The Worker Health and Safety (WHS) Branch is releasing the Department of Pesticide Regulation's (DPR's) 2013 Annual Summary of Results from the Pesticide Illness Surveillance Program (PISP). This report is the result of the collaborative efforts between the County Agricultural Commissioners (CAC), DPR-Enforcement, and DPR-WHS. This annual report provides a summary of the pesticide illness cases received in 2013.

We would like to thank you and your staff for diligently investigating the assigned illnesses and commend your efforts to submit the investigative reports in a timely manner. In 2013, DPR received approximately 2,580 illness reports but only 1,718 (67%) of these reports met program criteria for WHS case number assignment and were sent to CACs for investigation. DPR epidemiologists determined that 1,128 (66%) of the 1,718 case investigations were at least possibly associated with pesticide exposure. Since 2010, we have noted improvements in the average time it takes to submit completed reports. We have also seen improvements in the quality of the investigative reports we have received. Your investigations are crucial in helping us identify potential health effects related to pesticides, which in turn, can impact our regulations. Several examples are highlighted in the 2013 PISP Annual Report including: (1) an investigation into occupational illnesses at a restaurant that led to the implementation of an Injury and Illness Prevention Program and a Hazard Communication Plan, and (2) a cluster of illnesses involving fenpyroximate that triggered an analysis of related cases and uncovered a possible concern with a product's formulation.

We hope that you will take a moment to read through the report as it is a direct result of your efforts. Again, thank you for your dedication to helping us ensure the safe use of pesticides by workers and the public. If you would like to discuss the report or have questions about the PISP program in general, feel free to contact Michel Oriol of the PISP at 916-324-8845 or by email at michel.oriol@cdpr.ca.gov.

[Original signed by Saturnino Yanga for L. Ross]

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