For 30 years, The California Department of Pesticide Regulation, D-P-R, has served a vital role: protect human health and the environment for all Californians.

Protecting people who work with or around pesticides is a critical part of DPR’s role.

Enter DPR’s Worker Health and Safety Branch.

DPR scientists help develop rules and guidance on how pesticides are used and the equipment needed to apply pesticides safely.

The department uses this information to conduct trainings, release informational videos, and develop multilingual tools to provide important safety information for everyone who uses or works around pesticides.

DPR releases safety information in English, Spanish, Hmong, Punjabi and Chinese, as well as Mexican indigenous languages like Mixteco, Zapoteco and Triqui.

To identify where to focus education and outreach efforts, DPR tracks data on pesticide-related illnesses and safety concerns from hospitals, poison control, enforcement partners and county agricultural commissioners.

In 2019, DPR developed a free mobile app, CASPIR. CASPIR offers a convenient way to anonymously report pesticide illness, incident or concern quickly, 24 hours a day. If you are concerned about illness from potential pesticide exposure, please help report via CASPIR or by calling 1-87PestLine (1-877-378-5463).

DPR releases annual Pesticide Illness data, which is available on the department’s website via CalPIQ – the online pesticide illness query application.

When the data identifies areas of concern, the department can develop a plan to reduce risk through regulatory changes, label changes, or product reformulation.

Over the last few decades, the number of illnesses reported by workers who handle pesticides for agricultural and structural pest control businesses has decreased by 87 percent.

Visit DPR’s website or social media to view more videos about how our work protects human health and the environment for all Californians.