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# THE PESTICIDE REVIEW

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Santa Clara County Division of Agriculture

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## Summer Reminder

*Avoid Heat Related Illnesses!*



Remember to drink fluids, even when you're not thirsty. For strenuous activity, you should drink 2 - 4 glasses of water / sports drink every hour!

Applicators have to wear protective equipment specified by pesticide labels and required by law. For those applicators having to wear layers of protective gear, be careful! Try and spray during the cooler parts of the day to mitigate problems with the heat.

To help protect against the sun, wear a wide brimmed hat and safety glasses that have been tinted. Also be sure to wear sunscreen to guard against sunburns. - Sunburns slow the skin's ability to release heat.

Be sure to take breaks whenever necessary to allow your body to cool down.

For information about heat stress, visit this website:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/docs/d001601-d001700/d001633/d001633.html>

## Workplace Posting Requirements for Employees

*Pesticide Safety Information Series N-8*

Many times when we visit a pest control company's office, Pesticide Safety Information Series N-8 is not posted. Rather, we find it in a training binder or in a file next to their employee training records. When we do see it posted, many times it's an extremely old version of the series, or we will find the current version posted, but not filled out.

Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 6723 requires employers to display a completed copy of N-8 at a central location in the workplace. Businesses with employees must fill out the first page stating where emergency medical care is available. The second page also has a section for employers to inform employees where records are kept. Both pages need to be filled out before you post your N-8.

If it has been some time since you last updated your PSIS series, you can stop by your local agricultural commissioner's office to pick up a set, or you can download them from DPR's website:

<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/whs/psisenglish.htm>

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## Posting Addresses on the Internet

*A message from DPR licensing*

DPR posts licensing information on their website so individuals can look up licensing information. Part of this posting contains the address of the individual or company. DPR suggests if you are uncomfortable with your address being posted on their website, open up a P.O. Box and use that as your mailing address instead of your physical address.

<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/currlic.htm>

# DPR's "TOP 10" PESTICIDE BLUNDERS AT HOME

*Department of Pesticide Regulation News  
April 18, 2005*

None of the following cases resulted in death, although most victims required medical treatment. Most of these cases occurred in 2003 and were compiled by DPR's Pesticide Illness Surveillance Program.

In no particular order, the "top 10" are:

1. As a 34-year-old Yolo County motorist moved her driver's seat backward, the motion caused an insect fogger stashed underneath the seat to discharge. She inhaled the fumes and immediately sought medical attention.
2. A mother in Merced County found a cough medicine bottle in the storage shed. That night, she gave 1/4 teaspoon of its contents to her son. When he reacted badly, she smelled the bottle and realized it contained an insecticide, which a relative had given to her husband.
3. A painting crew applied a wood preservative to a fence between two properties in Los Angeles County. The neighboring homeowner smelled a strong odor and became ill. The property owner diluted the wood preservative with paint thinner, contrary to label directions.
4. While cleaning mold underneath the kitchen sink, a 23-year-old resident of Los Angeles County inhaled the bleach fumes and developed respiratory symptoms. He wore a military-type gas mask, but still inhaled the fumes. When his symptoms worsened, he sought medical attention.
5. A Los Angeles County homeowner saw a bug in her bathroom and sprayed it with a pesticide. As the bug kept moving, the 66-year-old woman kept on spraying -- until the fumes overwhelmed her, and she immediately sought medical attention.
6. An elderly Fresno County woman entered her house to look for a cat after her son-in-law set off several insect foggers to rid the residence of roaches. She inhaled the fogger mist and began coughing. Her son-in-law called for an ambulance to take her to a hospital for treatment.
7. A Sonoma County man brought a 50/50 granular pool chlorine/water mixture home from work in a 16-ounce bottle. The bottle sat outside in the sun for a week. When the resident opened the bottle to pour it into his spa, the contents shot out under pressure and into his unprotected eyes.
8. A 35-year-old homeowner in Sonoma County noticed that her pesticide product had settled and solidified inside the container. She mistakenly shook the container without putting the cap back on, and some of the product shot into her right eye. She immediately flushed her eyes with water.
9. A homeowner in San Luis Obispo County mixed muriatic acid and diazinon into a hand pump sprayer in hopes of doing less work in his yard. When he pressurized the sprayer, it exploded. He immediately showered and sought medical attention.
10. A Los Angeles County tenant triggered three insect foggers in her apartment kitchen without extinguishing the pilot lights. As she opened the front door to leave, the material ignited and blew out her front windows. The 32-year-old woman was taken to a hospital with chest pain.

## Question Corner

If you have any questions, comments, or would like to suggest a subject for an article, please drop us a note at:

Santa Clara County Agriculture:  
The Pesticide Review  
1553 Berger Drive  
San Jose, CA 95112

Or e-mail us:

[scagriculture@era.co.scl.ca.us](mailto:scagriculture@era.co.scl.ca.us)

# Structural Applicator Examinations

## County-proctored examinations

We have received a few questions lately regarding the structural applicator examination procedures.

Prospective licensees need to bring three things with them to the examination:

1. \$15.00
2. Their driver's license
3. Letter from the Structural Pest Control Board indicating the candidate is approved for testing.  
- This provides the county agricultural commissioner proctor with an original signature verifying the applicant has been approved for testing.

There are candidates who believe they must pass the fingerprint / background check before taking the test. This is not the case. A candidate can take the test before they undergo the background investigation. It does not matter in what order a candidate completes these requirements.

Our office recently received a memo from the Structural Board regarding faxed copies of the approval letter. In the past, counties have allowed faxed copies of the Board's approval letter, but the Board will no longer allow this practice:

"Effective immediately, the Board will no longer fax copies of approval letters to CAC Offices. If applicants arrive without an approval letter, those applicants are to be turned away. Those individuals will need to locate their original letter, or contact the Board directly and have a hard copy mailed."

Be sure to keep those original letters and remember to bring them when you come in to take the test!

Local Counties that proctor the exam:

Alameda County: Every Friday: (510) 670-5232

Santa Clara County: The last Wednesday of every month: (408) 918-4600

Santa Cruz: The first Wednesday of every month: (831) 763-8080

San Mateo County: The last Thursday of every month: (650) 363-4700

# Backflow Prevention



## Acceptable backflow devices

California Code of Regulations, Section 6610 requires pesticide rigs and other application equipment be equipped with an air-gap separation, reduced pressure principle backflow prevention device, or double check valve assembly.

So why is there a regulation requiring an air-gap or backflow prevention for pesticide equipment?

When a filling hose is submerged in a tank of pesticides without any backflow prevention, the pesticides in the tank can easily contaminate the water source by way of backpressure or backsiphonage.

Backpressure can cause the flow in a hose to reverse direction when the pressure at the end of the hose is greater than the point where it is connected to the water supply. Water will flow to the spot of least resistance and if the pressure at the end of the submerged hose is greater than the supply end, the liquid will flow from the tank back to the water source.

The second phenomenon, backsiphonage, can occur when there is a drop in the supply line pressure. If the filling hose is submerged in a tank, and the supply line experiences a drop in pressure, a vacuum can be created that will suck the water from the tank back into the water supply.

Are there any specific requirements for air-gaps and anti-siphoning devices?

Yes. Air gaps must be at least half the diameter of the fill pipe, but no less than 1-inch above your tank. If you would like to read the Enforcement Letter addressing the subject of backflow prevention, click on the following web link:

<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/enfcmpli/penfltrs/penf2001/2001012.pdf>

If you have an anti-siphon device, or interested in obtaining an anti-siphon device, check with your local water supplier to assure your device is acceptable. Jim Wollbrinck with the San Jose Water Company said if you have a question about an anti-siphon device or want to make sure the one you have is appropriate for use in Santa Clara County, just give his office a call and he will help. His direct line is (408) 279-7804.

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The Pesticide Review is published by the Santa Clara County Division of Agriculture. This newsletter is published several times a year and is intended to provide information and education to registered pest control companies in Santa Clara County.

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