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PESTICIDE EDUCATION CENTER



*For a safe environment
for workers and consumers*

PESTICIDE EDUCATION CENTER

Founded in 1988 to educate the public about the hazards and health effects of pesticides, the Pesticide Education Center (PEC) works with community groups, workers, individuals, and others harmed by or concerned about risks to their health from exposure to pesticides used in agriculture, the home and garden, and other environmental and industrial uses. Our goal is to provide critical information about pesticides so that the public can make more informed decisions and choices.

The founder of the PEC, Dr. Marion Moses, is a physician specializing in occupational and environmental medicine with many years experience investigating and diagnosing pesticide-related illnesses in farm workers and their families.

The Pesticide Education Center is a non-profit organization, and contributions are tax-deductible.

Our address is P.O. Box 420870, San Francisco, California, 94142-0870; telephone 415/391-8511; fax 415/391-9159.

OUT PESTICIDES

are among the few toxic substances added to our environment. They cause they are toxic and bioaccumulative and harmful things. Pesticides are global contaminants found in air, soil, groundwater, surface water, even the arctic ice pack, they are in birds, fish, wildlife, domestic animals, and human beings, including newborn babies.

Over one billion pounds of pesticides are used annually in the U.S., primarily herbicides, and fungicides. Agriculture is the major user, accounting for 80% of the pesticides used in the U.S.

Pesticides are widely used for control of weeds, insects and other pests in homes, schools, hospitals, offices, retail stores, sports and food stores, and aircraft. Pesticides are used in the manufacture of paints, pastes, papers, plastics, food packaging, textiles, and many other products.

Pesticides are sold directly to the public through garden centers, insecticide foggers, pest strips, baits, insecticide sprays, and lawn and garden products. Municipal, county, and state governments are also active in the maintenance of high-of-way on

highways, railbeds, and power transmission lines. Golf courses are intensively chemically managed, as are parks and recreation areas. An additional one billion pounds are used as wood preservatives, primarily creosote on railroad ties.

In 1939 there were 32 pesticide products registered in the U.S.; in 1989 there were 22,000. Pesticide use has doubled every ten years between 1945 and 1985.

There is abundant evidence of the risk that toxic pesticides pose to human health. Farm workers have the most exposure to pesticides and about 300,000 are poisoned every year. Studies show an association between pesticides and chronic health effects such as cancer, sterility, miscarriage, birth defects, and effects on the brain and nervous system. Community residents are at risk from exposure to drift from agricultural use, and from lawn, garden, and other home use.

THE PROBLEM OF INFORMATION ACCESS

Access to critical information is controlled by pesticide manufacturers, producers, major users, and regulators of pesticides who have a vested interest in preventing its widespread dissemination to workers and the public.

Manufacturers' assurances that pesticides

are safe if used according to directions, and that current laws and regulations provide adequate protections have been proven time after time to be incorrect. Major spills, severe poisonings in workers, and deaths continue to occur when all laws and regulations are followed.

Current laws do not protect workers or the public from long-term and chronic health effects from low-level exposures.

HOW PECC CAN HELP

The PECC develops curricular materials and provides information and services targeted to the needs of average citizens and workers exposed to pesticides at work or in their homes and environment.

If you suspect or are concerned about pesticide-related problems in your home, school, or community, the PECC can help you with needed information about specific pesticides involved, and recommend others who can help you. In some cases the PECC works directly with affected communities on specific problems.

The PECC staff also participate in educational programs such as workshops, seminars and worker and community meetings. In some cases we can work with you on setting up a seminar, meeting, or educational program to meet your specific needs.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

* Volunteer to help us in our office in San Francisco. Bilingual volunteers (English and Spanish) are especially needed.

* Show PECC videos and use our book and other materials in your school, environmental studies, or other program (if an order form is not attached or enclosed please contact us and we will send you one).

* Send a contribution to support our Center (checks payable to Pesticide Education Center). Donations are tax deductible.

- Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____
- I would like to volunteer, please contact me.
- Other _____

Name _____

Address _____

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State _____

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