

## Selected Pesticide Resources for the Health Professional

### Pesticide Information Leaflet No. 23

Amy E. Brown, Ph.D.

Coordinator, Pesticide Education and Assessment Programs

Revised, May 1999

Physicians, nurses, emergency personnel, and other medical professionals have special needs for information about pesticides. This leaflet provides references and resources the health professional may find useful.

### References

1. *Farm Chemicals Handbook*: Useful for obtaining common chemical names, if only a brand name is available; updated yearly.
2. *Handbook of Pesticide Toxicology* (Hayes WJ, 1991): A review of the toxicologic and human literature on a particular chemical can usually be found in this comprehensive text.
3. *Recognition and Management of Pesticide Poisonings* (Morgan D, 1989): Reviews the diagnosis and treatment of acute poisoning by the different groups of pesticides.
4. *Regulating Pesticides in Food* (National Research Council, 1987): Reviews carcinogenic effects of pesticides in food.
5. *Guidelines for Physicians: Medical Supervision of Pesticide Workers* (California Department of Health Services, 1988): Reviews practical aspects of cholinesterase monitoring.
6. *The Effects of Pesticides on Human Health* (Baker EL, 1990): Reviews chronic effects of pesticide exposure.
7. EXTTOXNET (Extension Toxicology Network): Available in hard copy from Cornell University, Pesticide Management Education Program, or on the Internet at <http://ace.ace.orst.edu/info/exttoxnet>. Provides toxicological profiles on pesticides as well as brief discussions of pesticide issues such as carcinogenicity, dose response relationships, etc.

8. *Pesticide Active Ingredient Profiles*, a downloadable site on the Internet at <http://pmep.cce.cornell.edu/profiles/index.html>>. These pesticide profiles include the EXTTOXNET Pesticide Information Profiles as well as information taken from other sources, such as the EPA and the Federal Register. Pesticides are organized by type of pesticide and active ingredient. Currently, there are 1314 articles in the Profiles library.

9. EPA registration standards on individual pesticides: The standards review many unpublished studies in addition to published literature. Available from EPA Registration Division, **703-305-7090**.

10. EPA information on inert ingredients, **703-305-8811**.

11. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR): For information on a variety of chemicals (mostly industrial chemicals, but a few pesticides), including case studies and ToxFaqs. On the Internet at <http://atsdr1.atsdr.cdc.gov:8080>>.

12. Pesticide label: Includes statement of active ingredients, signal word, precautionary statements, first aid, restricted use statements, reentry statements.

13. Material safety data sheets (MSDS): Specific for each product; lists details in brief on characteristics of the chemicals in the product.

## Contacts

1. State and local health departments and the EPA-mandated state agency responsible for pesticide regulation in your state: For information on regulations pertaining to pesticides. In Maryland, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) Pesticide Regulation Section, **410-841-5710**, is responsible for regulating pesticides.

2. Center for Disease Control (CDC), NIOSH, Cincinnati, Ohio: For evaluation of workplace health hazards and outbreaks of illness.

3. Center for Environmental Health and Injury Control, Atlanta, Georgia: For evaluation of environmental health hazards and outbreaks of illness.

4. County Extension Services: Extension professionals can advise on which pesticides and other chemicals are likely to be used on farms, nurseries, greenhouses, and landscapes; application, storage, and disposal practices; and general patterns of exposure. Listed in the blue pages of the phone book.

5. Area office of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA): Regulates field sanitation standards on farms with at least eleven workers.

## Hotlines

1. National Pesticide Telecommunications Network: A 24-hour number (**800-858-7378**) for information on the acute or chronic effects of pesticides; available to consumers as well as health care providers.

2. CHEMTREC: A 24-hour emergency number (**800-424-9300**) for questions dealing with chemical spills, particularly large spills or those that might contaminate water or endanger public health. On-site response teams will be dispatched if necessary to handle the emergency. This number may be called by nonprofessionals.

3. The Animal Poison Control Center: Operated 24 hours a day by the University of Illinois as an emergency hotline (**217-337-5030**) to help farmers with livestock contamination and poisoning problems. The staff has access to data on pesticides, food

additives, plant and mold toxins, drugs, and other chemicals. For veterinarians or other professionals.

4. Chemical Manufacturers of America (CMA): A toll-free service operating Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. through 9:00 p.m. EST. This number (**1-800-262-8200**) may be called by pesticide nonprofessionals. CMA provides non-emergency safety and health information on many chemicals, including, but not limited to, pesticides.

5. The Safe Drinking Water Hotline: A toll-free number (**1-800-426-4791**) to help states, the regulated community, and the public understand the Safe Drinking Water Act. The line operates between 9:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. EST. Staff will answer questions concerning contaminants including, but not limited to, pesticides, and drinking water standards.