



News and Information for December 2018

Chlorpyrifos Update

DPR has released their interim recommended permit conditions, which we will be adopting as of January 1, 2019. Those permittees with chlorpyrifos on their restricted materials permits will be receiving a packet with updated conditions shortly. Permittees must return the completed signature page in order to use chlorpyrifos after January 1, 2019. This page can be returned by mail, email, fax, etc.

Notable changes:

- No aerial applications of chlorpyrifos.
- Discontinuing its use on most crops. "Critical uses," as determined by the UC Cooperative Extension, will be allowed. Alfalfa, citrus, and cole crops (includes broccoli) are included "critical uses." Unlisted commodities may still apply by granular or drip.
- A ¼-mile buffer zone will be in effect around each ground spray application and for 24 hours afterwards where only chlorpyrifos handling and transit are allowed. Written permission must be obtained from each property within the buffer.
- A 150-foot setback from sensitive sites must be observed for all ground spray applications, regardless of whether the site is occupied.

Sterile Mexican Fruit Fly Detections in Local Traps

During the end of November and early December three sterile Mexican fruit flies (*Anastrepha ludens*) were detected in local traps. Sterile fruit flies are tagged with fluorescent dye prior to release and are distributed to disrupt mating with wild Mexican Fruit Flies (Mexflies) as a part of CDFAs ongoing eradication program.

The Mexican fruit fly is a serious agricultural pest in Mexico and parts of Central America where it readily attacks citrus, mango, avocado, and more than 50 kinds of various fruits. These pests could devastate commercial agriculture, attacking valuable California crops and making it more difficult and expensive to grow fruits, nuts, and vegetables. Detection trapping and sterile Mexfly releases are conducted in California due to the large number of commercially grown crops threatened by the introduction of this pest. Mexican fruit fly adults have been trapped a number of times in California and several infestations have been eradicated from the state.

Skimmers

Skimmers are small devices illegally placed by criminals in gas pumps that can scan, store and transfer data via Bluetooth from the magnetic strips on the back of credit and debit cards. There has been a recent increase in skimmer activity in California. In the past 3 months, 10 skimmers were found in Sutter County and Mariposa County. The devices located were enabled by both SIM cards and Bluetooth signals. Sutter County had an estimated loss to card lock members in excess of \$50,000. In addition, the Secret Service warns of an increase in gas pump skimmers this holiday season. The Secret Service found nearly 200 skimmers nationwide this holiday season that can be responsible for \$6-million in in fraud. Gas stations with poor lighting and appearance and easy access to the freeway are attractive targets for card skimming criminals. These devices are virtually undetectable to a consumer at the time they make a purchase and with new technology, their card information can be transmitted instantly.

Tips for protecting yourself or your company from skimmers:

1. Go inside, pay with the cashier instead of at the pump.
2. If you have to pay with a card, choose a pump that is closest to the cashier.
3. Look that security seals at the pump do not have signs of tampering.
4. Use a credit card instead of a debit card.
5. Watch your accounts for suspicious charges.