City of Beverly Hills

Health and Safety Commission
Regular Meeting

July 26, 2010
4:00 PM
City Hall Room 280-A

Enhancing the Health and Safety of Our Community
CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
City Hall Room 280-A
AGENDA

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
July 26, 2010
4:00 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. COMMISSION MINUTES
   • Consideration of minutes of June 28, 2010.

D. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE
   At this time, members of the public may address the Commission regarding any items not
   on the Agenda that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. By State
   law, the Commission may not discuss or vote on items not on the Agenda.

E. REPORT FROM THE CHAIRPERSON
   • Mayor’s Cabinet Meeting – July 14, 2010.
   • Other items of interest.

F. DIRECTOR’S REPORT
   • Report from Myra Lurie, Beverly Hills School District Board Member
   • Information Only:
     a) LA Times Article: “There’s a hole in this possible earthquake pattern”
   • Other Items – Commission Calendar

G. NEW BUSINESS
   1. Health and Safety Awards
   2. Pesticide & Herbicide Use
   3. Future Agenda Items
   4. Operation Golden Phoenix 2010
   5. Flu and Vaccines FAQs
   6. Conflict of Interest Code

H. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS
   Commissioners’ brief responses to public comments, questions for clarification, brief
   announcements, request for information, and brief reports on activities.

I. ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL
Commissioners Present: Kopeikin, Millan, Judelson, Setian, Vice Chair Landau, Chair Seidel
Commissioners Absent: Aronberg
Staff: P. Mottice Muller, K. Ryan

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The Pledge of Allegiance was let by Commissioner Landau.

C. COMMISSION MINUTES
MOVED by Landau, SECONDED by Judelson to approve the minutes of the meeting on May 17, 2010 (6/0)
Ayes: Judelson, Landau, Seidel, Kopeikin, Setian, Millan
Noes: None
Absent: Aronberg
CARRIED.

D. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE
None.

E. REPORT FROM THE CHAIRPERSON
Vice Chair Landau attended the Mayor's Cabinet meeting. He reported back to the Commission on the various topics discussed at the meeting.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST
None.

F. DIRECTOR'S REPORT
REPORT FROM MYRA LURIE, BEVERLY HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER
- Currently the district is updating all of the school’s safety plans.
- The "Subway to the Sea" project is likely to run beneath Beverly Hills High School.
- The new Facilities Director has been hired. He will oversee the use of the bond funding.

INFORMATION ONLY: None.

OTHER ITEMS: None

G. NEW BUSINESS
1. PRESENTATION: RECIPIENT OF EMPLOYEE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE AWARD
Larry Sakurai, Principal Planner for the City, was recognized by the Commission as the recipient of the 2010 Employee Emergency Management Excellence Award. Chair Seidel noted many of Mr. Sakurai's contributions to the City's preparedness and presented him
with a small gift of appreciation. Susan Healy Keene, Director of Community Development, also spoke briefly about Mr. Sakurai’s valuable contributions to the City’s successful emergency management program.

2. PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY: MUMPS CASES ON THE RISE IN LOS ANGELES
Mayor Delshad requested that the Health and Safety Commission review this issue and report back to the Council. Diseases such as mumps and whooping cough are increasing because people are choosing not to get vaccinated. Jessica Barcellona, Office of Emergency Management Intern, gave an overview of this item, emphasizing that the decision to immunize children is personal as well as controversial. Commissioners agreed that the Health and Safety Commission will make an educational statement about this issue. The ensuing discussion included the following:

- the commission supports immunizations
- Commission’s message: be informed that these diseases are dangerous and preventable by receiving vaccination
- community members should be encouraged to discuss vaccinations with their health care professionals
- there are consequences if people choose not to vaccinate
- it is important for children to be vaccinated, as well as for adults to be re-vaccinated
- the Commission’s message regarding vaccinations should be kept simple
- information will be placed on the City’s website including links to the CDC, as well as vaccination information
- a presentation regarding vaccinations will be given at a City Council meeting in July

3. COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY AWARDS
Commissioners agreed with the timeline as laid out in the staff report. Award recipients will be selected by the entire commission this year, with the possibility of being selected by members of the ad hoc committee in future years. The recipient will receive a personalized gift and certificate from the Commission. Recipients should also be recognized by the City Council at a meeting.

Myra Lurie agreed to pass along information and nomination forms to teachers and administrators at the schools to encourage their participation.

4. HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN RENEWAL
Consultant Viviana Franco presented this item to the Commission. She began by briefly reviewing the City’s 2004 Hazard Mitigation Plan, describing the purpose of the plan, and explaining the plan’s mission. Ms. Franco explained mitigation strategies and how they pertain to obtaining funds to implement the strategies.

Ms. Franco noted that representatives from each City department worked on the updated version of the plan.

The remaining timeline for finalizing the Hazard Mitigation Plan includes presenting to other Commissions in June, obtaining feedback and final revisions in July, and finally approval of the plan by City Council in late August. Commissioners were asked to review the draft plan and provide feedback to Ms. Franco by August 8th. The plan will be available for review on the City’s website, and hard copies will be made available upon request.

5. EARTHQUAKE PLEDGE DRIVE RAFFLE
Through a random drawing by Chair Seidel, Jong Young was drawn as the winner of this year’s Community Pledge Drive. A gift will be given to the winner of the raffle.

6. TOBACCO RETAILER REGULATORY PERMIT PROGRAM
Chair Seidel and staff presented its research on the Tobacco Retailer Regulatory Permit Program at the City Council Study Session on June 3, 2010. The Council directed staff to
implement the permit program as recommended. The City Attorney’s office is currently drafting the ordinance for the program, which will go before the Council in August. An education/outreach plan regarding the new ordinance will also be implemented following the City Council’s approval of the ordinance. Also at the June 3rd City Council meeting, the Council requested that the Health and Safety Commission review enforcement of the purchase of alcohol by minors. The City Attorney’s office will provide the Commission with information on current laws pertaining to this issue. Commissioner Setian said that he felt that the Tobacco Retailer Regulatory Permit Program, as presented to and agreed to by the Council, is a well balanced plan.

7. HAZARDOUS PESTICIDES AND HERBICIDES
This item will be introduced at the Commission’s July meeting.

8. STATUS OF HEALTH AND SAFETY WEEK
Commissioners agreed that Health and Safety Week should take place every other year, and therefore will take place again in 2011. This year, the Commission will use the staff time and funding that usually would go toward Health and Safety Week to enhance the Community Disaster Citizen Corps Program, especially Neighborhood Watch.

9. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR
Commissioners had a discussion about rotation of the chair and vice chair positions. Commissioners agreed that the precedent will be set that the more senior commissioners will be nominated to serve as vice chair for a one year term, then rotate into the chair position.

MOVED by Millan, SECONDED by Judelson to nominate Peter Landau to serve as the next Chairperson of the Health and Safety Commission (6/0)
Ayes: Judelson, Landau, Seidel, Kopeikin, Setian, Millan
Noes: None
Absent: Aronberg
CARRIED.

MOVED by Landau, SECONDED by Setian to nominate Debra Judelson to serve as the next Vice Chairperson of the Health and Safety Commission (6/0)
Ayes: Judelson, Landau, Seidel, Kopeikin, Setian, Millan
Noes: None
Absent: Aronberg
CARRIED.

H. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS
Commissioner Setian remarked on the positive impact of this year’s “Every 15 Minutes” program on the high school students. He also thanked Commissioner Millan for her contribution in the program’s success.

I. ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business, Chair Seidel, with the consent of the Commission, adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

PASSED, Approved and Adopted
This _______ of __________________, 2010

________________________
Peter Landau, Chair
There's a hole in this possible earthquake pattern

The Mogi doughnut hypothesis, developed by a Japanese seismologist, holds that earthquakes occur in a circular pattern over decades, building up to one very large temblor in the doughnut hole.

By Rong-Gong Lin II and Hector Becerra, Los Angeles Times

July 18, 2010

As UC Davis physicist and geologist John Rundle ponders the map of recent California earthquakes, he sees visions of a doughnut even Homer J. Simpson wouldn't like.

The doughnut is formed by pinpointing the recent quakes near Eureka, Mexicali and Palm Springs.

Seismologists call the possible pattern a Mogi doughnut. It's the outgrowth of a concept, developed in Japan, which holds that earthquakes sometimes occur in a circular pattern over decades — building up to one very large quake in the doughnut hole. Rundle and his colleagues believe that the recent quakes, combined with larger seismic events including the 1989 Loma Prieta and 1994 Northridge temblors, could be precursors to a far larger rupture.

They just don't know exactly when.

The idea of predicting earthquakes remains controversial and much debated among California's many seismologists. But as technology improves and the understanding of how earthquakes distribute energy grows, experts are gingerly offering improved "forecasts," some of which have been surprisingly prescient.

For example, Southern California was hit earlier this month by a 5.4 quake that struck in the mountains about 30 miles south of Palm Springs — several weeks after seismologists at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and elsewhere warned that pressure was building in the San Jacinto fault zone, which is where the temblor occurred.

That forecast underscores new thinking by seismologists about how earthquakes occur.

In the past, experts paid less attention to how one fault was connected to another and how one earthquake could increase the chances of a quake on another fault. But now they believe that these connections are extremely important and that this year's temblors along the Mexican border and near...
Palm Springs seem to support the concept.

"Previously we would identify a fault, map it and name it," said Lisa Grant Ludwig, a UC Irvine earthquake expert. "What we've really got here is a network of faults. Maybe that's what we need to be thinking: more big-picture."

Seismologists made the forecast about the quake risk south of the Palm Springs area after seeing signs that the 7.2 Mexicali temblor in April had placed more pressure on the San Jacinto fault system, which extends from the border northwest 100 miles toward Riverside and San Bernardino. They were particularly concerned because the San Jacinto fault system connects to the massive 800-mile-long San Andreas fault, which last triggered the "Big One" in Southern California in 1857, leaving a trail of destruction from Central California to the Cajon Pass in the Inland Empire.

David Bowman, a geology professor at Cal State Fullerton, said his research indicates that the Mexicali quake — the largest to strike the region in nearly two decades — was actually triggered by a much smaller quake on an unnamed fault line. The small quake's energy "jumped on another fault and kept on going," causing the much larger Mexicali temblor that was felt all the way to Fresno.

"That fault the earthquake started on is so small, we don't even really know where it is. Yet that small earthquake — that would not have made the news at all — was able to jump onto another fault and become a magnitude 7.2 event," he said.

The big question is whether the Mexicali quake has made a destructive temblor in the L.A. area more likely. Experts see strong evidence that there is more pressure now on the San Jacinto and nearby Elsinore fault networks to the east of Los Angeles. The Elsinore fault zone is connected to the Whittier fault, which runs through densely populated sections of the L.A. area, including the San Gabriel Valley. As a result, there's a concern that a quake on the Whittier fault might be more likely.

The Mexicali quake has also turned into a treasure trove of data for earthquake experts. It comes at a time when quake technology has advanced in major ways. Sophisticated satellite images are being used to study creeping ground movement caused by tectonic pressure in advance of an earthquake.

New GPS ground monitoring equipment is tracking how far the ground has moved after a quake, allowing scientists to calculate locations of greater seismic stress. And research in the mountains west of Bakersfield, examining the tracks of earthquakes hundreds of years ago, is showing that catastrophic earthquakes — those as large as magnitude 8 — have occurred in Southern California more frequently than previously believed.

That brings experts back to the Mogi doughnut.

The idea behind the doughnut is relatively straightforward: Earthquakes in California are basically caused by tectonic movements in which the Pacific plate slides northwest relative to the North American plate. As the plates move, stress builds up along both sides of cracks in the Earth's crust, as if a giant sheet of peanut brittle were being shoved in two directions.

Tectonic stress will first cause ruptures on the smaller faults, because they need less pressure before they break and thus produce small earthquakes. When they do rupture, the tectonic pressure gets transferred somewhere else, moving along like a crack in a windshield.

Ultimately, the stress moves closer to bigger faults that need more pressure to erupt, thus creating larger and larger earthquakes until the "Big One" happens.

http://www.latimes.com/news/custom/scimedemail/la-me-earthquake-forecast-20100718,0... 7/19/2010
"It's a matter of looking at the major earthquakes in California over the last 20, 30, 40 years," said UC Davis' Rundle. "They seem to be occurring everywhere except the major faults — the San Andreas, the Elsinore and the San Jacinto."

Those three faults would be enclosed in Southern California's doughnut hole. Northern California's doughnut hole includes the San Andreas and Hayward faults.

The Mogi doughnut hypothesis was developed in 1969 by Japanese seismologist Kiyoo Mogi, who observed a pattern in which smaller earthquakes seemed to precede larger ones.

Experts stress that the hypothesis is still unproven and not universally accepted. Skeptics say the concept could be applied to seemingly random earthquakes.

Whether the doughnut concept proves true, there is a consensus that California is shaking more than in recent years.

That greater activity could presage a larger quake. But the history of earthquake forecasting is littered with bold predictions that prompted more fear than actual earth movement, said Susan Hough, a seismologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Pasadena. A case in point was the prediction in the 1980s of a devastating quake in Peru.

"The prediction was based on a number of ideas, some more wild-eyed than others," Hough said. "The prediction caused an international incident and a whole lot of real anxiety in Peru."

Perhaps the boldest recent prediction occurred in 2004, when an international research team led by then-83-year-old UCLA professor Vladimir Keilis-Borok said a moderate quake would rattle the California desert during a certain time frame.

The prediction made international headlines and brought Keilis-Borok rock star attention — especially because it was predated by apparently accurate predictions — but the deadline passed without a quake.

Now 88, Keilis-Borok continues his work to predict quakes. He shies away from more cautious terms like "forecast," which he said do not accurately reflect what scientists strive to do.

"The word 'forecast' is weak," he said in a Russian accent. "If you call it 'forecasting,' you are just not wanting to take responsibility." Scientists should not wait until forecasts can be made down to the precise moment, he added.

"Suppose you are the minister of the defense, and you are told the enemy is mobilizing its forces and will attack us within a year," he said. "And you tell them, 'No, I don't want to know. Tell me exactly within seconds, and then I will pay attention.' That would be suicide."

ron.lin@latimes.com

hector.becerra@latimes.com

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**JANUARY 2011**

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**MARCH 2011**

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The Community Health and Safety Award nomination period is scheduled to begin on August 1 and to conclude on September 30, 2010. A “Did you know?” about the awards will be presented during an August City Council meeting. The awards will also be publicized in the City’s newsletter and via press release. The award nomination form will be posted on the City of Beverly Hills website. The form can be completed online or downloaded and faxed, emailed or mailed to the OEM. Copies of the award nomination form will be available in the library, schools and other City buildings. Please promote the Community Health and Safety Awards to community organizations such as the Rotary, Chamber of Commerce and Homeowners’ Associations. Copies of the nomination forms will be distributed during July’s Health and Safety Commission meeting.
WHAT ARE THE BEVERLY HILLS COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY AWARDS?
The City of Beverly Hills is made up of dedicated residents, businesses and organizations that serve the community and contribute to the wellbeing of the city. To recognize individuals, businesses or organizations that have made significant efforts towards enhancing community health and safety in Beverly Hills, the Health and Safety Commission has created the Beverly Hills Community Leadership Award and the Beverly Hills Heroic Individual Award. We will recognize those who have gone above and beyond the usual in their dedication and service to health and safety. We are also looking to honor those who have made a long term commitment to the safety and well being of this community.

AWARD EVALUATION CRITERIA:

Beverly Hills Community Leadership Award - This award recognizes an individual, business, or group who has taken on a significant leadership role in the community which has helped to enhance community health and safety or improved the quality of life in their neighborhood.

Beverly Hills Heroic Individual Award - This award recognizes an individual who has made a significant, heroic contribution at a single event to enhance community health and safety in Beverly Hills.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THESE AWARDS?
The Beverly Hills Community Health and Safety Awards will be presented to those who continually demonstrate leadership in the field of health and safety, who make a significant, heroic contribution at a single event, or have consistently contributed to improving the community’s health and safety. To be eligible for these awards, the nominee must be a resident of Beverly Hills or have made a positive impact on our City in the areas of health and safety.

WHO CAN MAKE A NOMINATION? HOW ARE AWARD SELECTIONS MADE?
Nominations for the awards can be made by anyone. The deadline for nominations is September 30, 2010. Award nominations will be evaluated by the Health and Safety Commission. The Commission will consider the award criteria above as a part of their review process and award selection. Please complete your nomination form in detail since the Commission will base their decision on the information you provide.

WHEN WILL THE AWARDS BE PRESENTED?
Award recipients will be acknowledged at the Health and Safety Commission monthly meeting in late 2010.
BEVERLY HILLS COMMUNITY HEALTH and SAFETY AWARDS

NOMINATION FORM

Nominee's Name:__________________________________________________________

Nominee's Address:________________________________________________________

Nominee's Phone Number: ___________________________ E-Mail: __________________

Completed nomination forms must be submitted no later than September 30, 2010.
Please briefly describe the achievements of the nominee and explain why you feel this individual, business or group's efforts have significantly improved community health and safety in Beverly Hills. Provide specific examples using the criteria on the reverse side of this form. Attach additional sheets if needed. All information provided is subject to verification.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
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Nomination submitted by (print your name): ______________________________________

Your Address:________________________________________________________________

Your Phone Number: ___________________________ E-Mail: __________________

Please submit your nomination form to the City of Beverly Hills
Office of Emergency Management
On-line: www.beverlyhills.org/hsawards
Mail to: 455 North Rexford Dr, Beverly Hills, CA 90210
E-Mail to: kryan@beverlyhills.org
Fax: 310-247-1953
For additional information please call
Kathy Ryan at 310-285-1080
Commissioner Aronberg has requested that the attached articles to be included in the packet for discussion at the meeting.

At the request of Commissioner Aronberg, Ken Pfalzgraf, the City's Parks and Urban Forest Manager, will give a presentation regarding the City's policies and procedures on use of pesticides and herbicides in the City.
The Pesticide Regulation Division serves to protect public health and safety, pesticide handlers, agricultural workers, and the environment from the harmful effects of pesticide use. Professional pest control operators, advisers, commercial applicators, growers, pesticide dealers, and other users are regulated for the purpose of preventing the inappropriate or illegal use of pesticides.

The Division collects samples to be analyzed by the toxicology laboratory for project monitoring and agricultural or structural pesticide related investigations.

We offer training for other county personnel, governmental agencies, schools and private applicators in the safe and effective use of pesticides. This training is to insure pesticide usage complies with state and federal laws and regulations, is appropriate, and least hazardous to humans, animals, and the environment.

For the following Los Angeles County registration forms, call the Pesticide Regulation Division at (626) 575-5466.

- Structural Companies
  Branch 1
  Branch 2
  Branch 3
- Agricultural Companies
  Pest control business
  Advisor
  Maintenance gardener
  Pilot

Public Resources
- Consumer Information
- National Pesticide Information Center
- Integrated Pest Managment (IPM)
- School IPM

Pest Control Business (PCB) & Licensee Resources
- Pest Control Business
- Maintenance Gardener
- Pest Control Adviser
Licensing Verification (Ag. PCB)
Licensing Verification (Structural PCB)
Pesticide Label & MSDS
Restricted Use Pesticides
Termite and Fumigation
Pesticide Container Disposal

Laws & Regulations
- California Code of Regulations Title 3 Div. 6
- Food & Agriculture Code Div. 6, 7 & 13
- CA. Business & Professions Code Div. 3
- California Code of Regulations Title 16 Div.19

Agricultural Training Manuals and Bulletins
- Growers Guide (PDF/674 KB/16 pages)
- Pet Groomers and Kennel Operators Guide (PDF/163 KB/3 pages)
- Chemigation Training Manual for Growers (PDF/602 KB/14 pages)
- Compliance Assistance Information Pamphlet

- Pest Control Pilot
- Individual Licensing
- Private Applicator
- Restricted Materials Permit
- Operator ID
- Notice of Intent
- Notice of Intent(Application ONLINE)
- Emergency Exemptions (Section 18)
- Pesticide Safety Information Series

Forms
- Pesticide Use Report Form
- Notice of Intent
- Licensing Application
- Pesticide Training Checklist (English)
- Pesticide Training Checklist (Spanish)
- Pest Control Recommendation
- Generic Guidelines for Development of a Respiratory Protection Program
- Medical Evaluation Questionnaire

Other Sites
- Department of Pesticide Regulation
- US EPA-Office of Pesticide Program
- Structural Pest Control Board
- California Department of Food and Agriculture
For packet

Pamela Mottice Muller
Director Office of Emergency Management
City of Beverly Hills
Policy & Management
455 N. Rexford Dr.
Beverly Hills. Ca. 90210
310-285-1025

From: Sandra Aronberg [mailto:saronberg@earthlink.net]
Sent: Sunday, July 18, 2010 6:51 PM
To: Pamela Mottice-Muller
Subject: Bills Here is New York’s bill

More info.

New York State
ASSEMBLY
Sheldon Silver - Speaker

Sunday, July 18, 2010

Bill No.:
S04983

[Search]

- [ ] Summary
- [X] Actions
- [ ] Votes
- [ ] Memo
S04983 Actions:

BILL NO S04983C

04/27/2009 REFERRED TO ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
06/27/2009 REPORTED AND COMMITTED TO CODES
06/15/2009 AMEND (T) AND RECOMMIT TO CODES
06/15/2009 PRINT NUMBER 4983A
01/06/2010 REFERRED TO ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
03/25/2010 REPORTED AND COMMITTED TO CODES
03/25/2010 AMEND (T) AND RECOMMIT TO CODES
03/25/2010 PRINT NUMBER 4983B
03/29/2010 AMEND AND RECOMMIT TO CODES
03/29/2010 PRINT NUMBER 4983C
04/07/2010 1ST REPORT CAL.330
04/08/2010 2ND REPORT CAL.
04/12/2010 ADVANCED TO THIRD READING
04/20/2010 MOTION TO AMEND LOST
04/20/2010 PASSED SENATE
04/20/2010 DELIVERED TO ASSEMBLY
04/21/2010 referred to environmental conservation
05/04/2010 substituted for a7937c
05/04/2010 ordered to third reading cal.537
05/04/2010 passed assembly
05/04/2010 returned to senate
05/10/2010 DELIVERED TO GOVERNOR
05/18/2010 SIGNED CHAP.85

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S04983 Text:

STATE OF NEW YORK

4983--C

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

April 27, 2009

Introduced by Sen. FOLEY -- read twice and ordered printed, and
when printed to be committed to the Committee on Environmental
Conservation
-- reported favorably from said committee and committed to the
Commit-tee on Codes -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered
reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- recommitted to the Committee on Environmental Conservation in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- reported favorably from said committee and committed to the Committee on Codes -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered recommitted as amended and recommitted to the Committee on Environmental Conservation in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- reported favorably from said committee -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered recommitted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, the education law and the social services law, in relation to the use and guidance of pesticide alternatives

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Section 33-0303 of the environmental conservation law is amended by adding a new subdivision 7 to read as follows:
7. THE COMMISSIONER, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION AND THE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH, SHALL DEVELOP GUIDANCE ON PESTICIDE ALTERNATIVES TO FACILITATE COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION FOUR HUNDRED NINETY-K OF THE EDUCATION LAW AND THREE HUNDRED NINETY-G OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES LAW.

2 The education law is amended by adding a new section 409-k to read as follows:
S 409-K. PESTICIDE ALTERNATIVES. 1. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING TERMS SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS SET FORTH BELOW:
(A) "SCHOOL" SHALL MEAN ANY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT OR PRIVATE OR PAROCHIAL SCHOOL OR BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

S. 4983--C

1 (B) "PESTICIDE" SHALL HAVE THE SAME MEANING AS SET FORTH IN SUBDIVISION THIRTY-FIVE OF SECTION 33-0101 OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW, PROVIDED HOWEVER THAT IT SHALL NOT INCLUDE:
4 (I) THE APPLICATION OF ANTI-MICROBIAL PESTICIDES AND ANTI-MICROBIAL
5 PRODUCTS AS DEFINED BY FIFRA IN 7 U.S.C. SECTION 136 (MM) AND 136 Q (H)
6 (2);
7 (II) THE USE OF AN AEROSOL PRODUCT WITH A DIRECTED SPRAY, IN
8 CONTAINERS OF EIGHTEEN FLUID OUNCES OR LESS, WHEN USED TO PROTECT
9 INDIVIDUALS
10 FROM AN IMMINENT THREAT FROM STINGING AND BITING INSECTS,
11 INCLUDING
12 VENOMOUS SPIDERS, BEES, WASPS AND HORNETS;
13 (III) THE USE OF NON-VOLATILE INSECT OR RODENT BAIT IN A
14 TAMPER
15 RESISTANT CONTAINER;
16 (IV) THE APPLICATION OF A PESTICIDE CLASSIFIED BY THE UNITED
17 STATES
18 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AS AN EXEMPT MATERIAL UNDER 40 CFR
19 PART
20 152.25;
21 (V) THE USE OF BORIC ACID AND DISODIUM OCTABOHATE TETHAHYDHATE; OR
22 (VI) THE USE OF HORTICULTURAL SOAP AND OILS THAT DO NOT
23 CONTAIN
24 SYNTHETIC PESTICIDES OR SYNERGISTS.
25 2. NO SCHOOL SHALL APPLY PESTICIDE TO ANY PLAYGROUNDS, TURF,
26 ATHLETIC
27 OR PLAYING FIELDS, EXCEPT THAT AN EMERGENCY APPLICATION OF A
28 PESTICIDE
29 MAY BE MADE AS DETERMINED BY THE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT OR FOR A
30 COUNTY NOT HAVING A HEALTH DEPARTMENT SUCH AUTHORITY AS THE COUNTY
31 LEGISLATURE SHALL DESIGNATE, THE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH OR HIS OR HER
32 DESIGEE,
33 THE COMMISSIONER OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION OR HIS OR HER
34 DESIGEE,
35 OR, IN THE CASE OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL, THE SCHOOL BOARD.
36 S 3. The social services law is amended by adding a new section 390-
37 g to read as follows:
38 S 390-G. PESTICIDE ALTERNATIVES. 1. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION
39 THE
40 FOLLOWING TERMS SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS SET FORTH BELOW:
41 (A) "DAY CARE" SHALL APPLY TO ALL CHILD DAY CARE CENTERS OR HEAD
42 START
43 DAY CARE CENTERS, AS DEFINED IN SECTION THREE HUNDRED NINETY OF
44 THIS
45 TITLE.
46 (B) "PESTICIDE" SHALL HAVE THE SAME MEANING AS SET FORTH IN
47 SUBDIVISION THIRTY-FIVE OF SECTION 33-0101 OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL
48 CONSERVATION
49 LAW, PROVIDED HOWEVER THAT IT SHALL NOT INCLUDE:
50 (I) THE APPLICATION OF ANTI-MICROBIAL PESTICIDES AND ANTI-
51 MICROBIAL
52 PRODUCTS AS DEFINED BY FIFRA IN 7 U.S.C. SECTION 136(MM) AND
53 136Q(H)(2);
54 (II) THE USE OF AN AEROSOL PRODUCT WITH A DIRECTED SPRAY, IN
55 CONTAINERS
56 OF EIGHTEEN FLUID OUNCES OR LESS, WHEN USED TO PROTECT
57 INDIVIDUALS
58 FROM AN IMMINENT THREAT FROM STINGING AND BITING INSECTS,
59 INCLUDING
VENOMOUS SPIDERS, BEES, WASPS AND HORNETS;
(III) THE USE OF NON-VOLATILE INSECT OR RODENT BAIT IN A TAMPER RESISTANT CONTAINER;
(IV) THE APPLICATION OF A PESTICIDE CLASSIFIED BY THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AS AN EXEMPT MATERIAL UNDER 40 CFR PART 152.25;
(V) THE USE OF BORIC ACID AND DISODIUM OCTABORATE TETRAHYDRATE; OR
(VI) THE USE OF HORTICULTURAL SOAP AND OILS THAT DO NOT CONTAIN SYNTHETIC PESTICIDES OR SYNERGISTS.

2. NO DAY CARE SHALL APPLY PESTICIDE TO ANY PLAYGROUNDS, TURF, ATHLETIC OR PLAYING FIELDS, EXCEPT THAT AN EMERGENCY APPLICATION OF A PESTICIDE MAY BE MADE AS DETERMINED BY THE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT OR FOR A COUNTY NOT HAVING A HEALTH DEPARTMENT SUCH AUTHORITY AS THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE SHALL DESIGNATE, THE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE, THE COMMISSIONER OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE, OR, IN THE CASE OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL, THE SCHOOL BOARD.

S. 4983--C

1. Except as hereinafter provided, any person, corporation, society, institution or other organization, wilfully violating this title, OTHER THAN SECTION THREE HUNDRED NINETY-G OF THIS TITLE, or failing to comply with any order which the department is authorized under this title to make, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

S 5. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law; provided, that section two of this act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a law.
New York School Pesticide Bill Becomes Law!

Wed, May 19, 2010

General

As expected, New York Governor David Paterson signed the historic New York school pesticide bill into law Tuesday afternoon. SafeLawns plans to distribute this press release nationwide today:

Natural Lawncare Advocates Applaud

New York’s Anti-Pesticide Bill

Natural lawncare advocates are celebrating the signing of a tough anti-pesticide bill by New York Governor David Paterson. The Child Safe Playing Fields Act, which bans the use of chemical pesticides on school playing fields and playgrounds, is being called “historic” by the founder of SafeLawns.org, North America’s leading natural lawncare advocacy group.

“We need to protect children from the toxic effects of pesticides such as weed killers, insecticides and fungicides,” said Paul Tukey, the founder of SafeLawns.org and author of The Organic Lawn Care Manual (Storey, 2007). “Numerous studies indicate these chemical substances are not safe for children, pets or the planet. I believe that the New York state legislature, Senate and governor have ‘fired a shot’ that will be heard around the entire country.”

The Child Safe Playing Fields Act bans the use of chemical pesticides on school playing fields and day care playgrounds, although chemicals can still be used on surrounding green areas and inside schools to combat pests. Chemical companies lobbied heavily against the bill.

Tukey, who consults with municipalities and lawn care professionals across the U.S. and Canada, said achieving adequate turfgrass playing fields with natural, organic methods is easily attainable. In the long run, he said, the organic process is less expensive and safer.

“Numerous examples of natural lawns exist across North America, and studies indicate that the playing surfaces look great,” said Tukey. “Plus, natural lawncare helps the bottom line due to a reduced need for mowing, watering and pesticide applications.”

In fact, a new feature-length documentary called A Chemical Reaction, traces the story of how the small town Hudson, Quebec, became the first municipality in North America to completely ban lawn chemicals. That

law was upheld by the Canadian Supreme Court in 2001. Nearly two decades of organic lawn care later, the lawns in Hudson are looking quite green and healthy. “You don’t need synthetic chemicals to have a nice lawn,” said Tukey.

Today, lawn chemicals are now banned in more than half of Canada and are not sold in Home Depot and other major retail chains in that country. The same lawn chemicals are still sold in the U.S., however. Tukey sees the New York bill that prevents chemical pesticides on school playing fields as a major step toward other restrictions on lawn care chemicals throughout the United States.

“As Americans, we have to ask ourselves why we are subjecting our kids and pets to toxic chemicals when our friends north of the border began outlawing these poisons nearly two decades ago,” said Tukey.

NOTE: DVD copies of the movie, A Chemical Reaction, are available at www.safelawns.org/chemical-reaction/.

Share and Enjoy:

School Pesticide Ban

This post was written by:
Paul Tukey - who has written 402 posts on Safelawns Daily Post and Q&A Blog.

Contact the author

8 Responses to “New York School Pesticide Bill Becomes Law!”

Scott Morgan Says:
May 19th, 2010 at 9:34 am
This is outstanding news, especially coming on the same day we’re taking my son to see his new school for the Fall. And when he starts kindergarten in September, it makes me very pleased to know that he won’t be subjected to toxic chemicals. New York doesn’t have a whole lot to be proud of these days with its government, but this is something to be very proud of!

Reply

James Willis - Organic Gringo Says:
May 19th, 2010 at 10:22 am
Now hopefully more states will join...

Reply

Rose Marie Raccioppi Says:
May 19th, 2010 at 11:10 am
Your story, your leadership, your willingness to make a difference and so we now chart greater awareness, greater understanding and actions that reflect right intention. As a member of the Orangetown Environmental Committee (OEC), Orangetown, NY and having led the community campaign that led to the Rockland County Non-toxic Land Maintainence Act, June, 2008, I know WE THE PEOPLE can be a voice heard. OUR
In springtime, a man's dreams turn to an expanse of weedless, bug-free, manicured grass surrounding his suburban castle.

A multibillion-dollar industry caters to this dream, offering a calibrated poisoning that keeps his world lush yet silently threatens his family, his pets... And him.

Is it worth the risk?

By: Bryan Smith, Photographs by: Bill Diedato

Joe Speeney had never been a lawn geek, that suburban cowboy in the saddle of a candy-apple red Toro, pesticide bottle riding his hip like a six-shooter.

Still, having grown up playing football and baseball on his own childhood lawn, he admired a well-kept swath of green as much as the next guy. And each time he looked at the small patch of turf behind his townhouse in Bernards Township, New Jersey, Speeney was pleased to think that his month-old son, Dan, would have a place to roll around, get dirty, be a boy.

A lawn-care crew tended his entire neighborhood, and Speeney had wondered how the neighbors kept their grass so nice. Then one day four summers ago, his wife called him at work. "They're spraying something on the lawn and in the trees," she told him, "and it came through the windows before I could shut them. Our eyes are burning."

"Hit the roof," Speeney, 43, says. First, he and his neighbors called the neighborhood association. How could it let the crew fog their homes and not let them know? Then he began g-- for answers. The green chimeras of his son's future baseball field, he discovered, was maintained with a frightening mix of pesticides (weed killers, bug killers, fungicides) and synthetic fertilizers.

He'd already suspected that. What he didn't know was the depth to which these powders and pellets were linked to everything from cancer to Parkinson's disease to ADHD.

He was worried. And pissed off. And determined to know: Was he overreacting, or was the field of dreams behind his home turning into a toxic nightmare?

Since the days when George Washington rolled games on the bowling green at Mount Vernon, the idea of a well-tended expanse of grass has held sway in the collective psyche of the American male. "Nice lawn" is a chest-swelling compliment. It means you're a man, a provider, an upright citizen. "A fine carpet of green grass stamps the inhabitants as good neighbors," wrote Abraham Levitt, father of Levittown, in laying out his blueprint for his suburban ideal -- the box home surrounded by lawn.

That was the time -- the post-World War II years -- that the love affair with the Perfect Lawn grew into an obsession that now, even in this supposed earth-loving, organic era, propels men to drive to garden stores each spring to load heavy sacks of chemicals into the family SUV.

Today, turf covers more than 60,000 square miles of the United States; imagine a yard the size of Georgia. And a single lawn-care company tends the grounds of more than 3 million residential and commercial customers. Until 3 years ago, it went by a name that is a vestige of a more trusting era: TruGreen ChemLawn.

The blogosphere hums with sites devoted to all things lawn. Books have been written. In the film Gran Torino, Clint Eastwood grows one of the most famous of old-guy lines, "Get off my lawn."

And every day, American men stand before the lawn-chemical shelves at Home Depot or Lowe's and weigh the odds. We know this bag will kill weeds, and that one over there will kill bugs, and here's one that'll make our grass grow green and thick. But we wonder, at some level: Will one of these bags trigger an illness or start a cancer that may not appear for years or even decades?

And then, usually, we load up the cart.

When it comes to lawns, our devotion is often utter, unwavering -- bonny, even. Ted Steinberg found that out firsthand. A historian who grew up in Lawn Guy Land (as some call Long Island), Steinberg couldn't help but notice the singular devotion his neighbors had to their yards.

Later, after moving to the Cleveland suburb of Shaker Heights, he saw more evidence. "The lawns of some of my neighbors don't just look like putting greens -- they are putting greens, right down to the creeping bent grass, which is kept crew-cut short," he says. Fascinated, Steinberg wound up writing American Green: The Obsessive Quest for the Perfect Lawn.

"There's nothing wrong with a lawn," Steinberg is quick to say. "I have a lawn. But there is something wrong with the 'perfect' lawn. To achieve what he calls "the Augusta Effect," we powder our grass with chemicals and spritz weeds with poison. He asks, "We should take a risk with our health and the health of others for that?"

Americans -- men, mostly -- drop $40 billion a year on their lawns. The most recent estimates from the Environmental Protection Agency show that we apply more than 100 million pounds of fungicides, herbicides, and insecticides a year to our lawns. But you personally don't put down that much. Just a bag or three, only a fraction of the contents of
Or maybe it is. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tested more than 9,000 people about 9 years ago, and the scientists found pesticides -- or the products created when the body breaks them down -- in everyone they tested, according to a summary by the Pesticide Action Network, a group advocating alternatives to pesticides. Among people whose blood and urine were tested, 13 different pesticides were found in the average person's body. At least half the people tested had 18 pesticides in their bodies. Concentrations generally rose the younger the person was.

The levels varied greatly, and the CDC stresses that measurable amounts of pesticides do not mean you will become sick. More research and more time are needed to determine the true threat. But meanwhile, many researchers say, we're gambling our health on what we don't know.

"While the government develops separate safety levels for each chemical, this study shows that in the real world we are exposed to multiple chemicals simultaneously," says Margaret Reeves, Ph.D., a senior scientist at the Pesticide Action Network. "The synergistic effects of multiple exposures are unknown, but a growing body of research suggests that even at very low levels, the combination of these chemicals can be harmful to our health."

Relax, says the pesticide and fertilizer industry. Not surprisingly, its representatives insist that the products are perfectly safe when used properly -- a claim backed, they say, by decades of their own research as well as the government's. "All pesticide products that are available in the market in the United States are registered by the EPA and have gone through a risk-benefit assessment by the EPA," says Karen Readon of Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (RISE), a trade group representing pesticide and fertilizer manufacturers and suppliers. "So people can have a very high degree of confidence in this regulatory process."

But how many people use the products properly? We don't know, says Jane A. Hoppin, Sc.D., an environmental epidemiologist with the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. "Not many people are horticulturally literate enough to know what exactly they're supposed to be doing out there," hoppin says. "They're probably more likely to fall prey to a Web site that tells them, 'Well, just buy four of these bags and you'll be okay.'"

Meanwhile, experts say a growing body of research, much of it yet to be evaluated by the EPA, paints an alarming picture. Various pesticides are linked to a range of health risks, including cancer, Parkinson's disease, damage to the endocrine system, asthma, thyroid disease, and miscarriage. Emory University scientists have hypothesized that exposure to pesticides may make people more susceptible to drug addiction. Japanese researchers reported in 2008 that exposure to atrazine -- an herbicide used in numerous lawn-care products -- reduced sperm motility.

Mutant babies? Not quite, but one study found that mothers in New York City who had traces of chlorpyrifos (an organophosphate pesticide) and reduced levels of paraaxonase (a detoxifying enzyme) gave birth to infants with smaller heads -- a predictor for future cognitive problems. No fewer than five recent epidemiological studies published in peer-reviewed journals have associated environmental exposure to atrazine with low birth weight, prematurity, birth, and birth defects.

Atrazine has also been found to disrupt the endocrine system, and it may reduce testosterone levels, says Tyrone Hayes, Ph.D., a biologist at the University of California at Berkeley. "Men in Missouri who live in areas where atrazine is used have shown lower sperm counts and lower semen quality," says Hayes, "and men who work with atrazine on farms can have atrazine levels 24,000 times higher than the effective doses."

A Toxicological Sciences study on rats found that male offspring born to mothers given doses of atrazine developed inflamed prostates, possibly as a result of the chemical's ability to suppress prolactin, a hormone, in the mothers' milk.

Children are particularly vulnerable to lawn chemicals, says Catherine Karr, M.D., Ph.D., an assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Washington, who specializes in environmental medicine. "Kids are not small adults," she says.

"They interact with the environment in much more rich ways. They eat more dirt. They're lower to the ground. They tend to put things in their mouths that aren't food."

After the surprise fogging of his neighborhood and family, Joe Speeney made a diakie stink. The landscaping company eventually coughed up a "materials safety data sheet" listing the chemicals and fertilizers it had been using.

It was scary reading. An insecticide called Tempo SC Ultra included warnings such as "Harmful if inhaled," "Decreases in fetal body weights," "Neurological findings ... were observed," "Extremely toxic to fish and aquatic invertebrates." Roundup PRO herbicide was associated with "decrease in survival" among rats.

That was enough for Speeney. He resolved to take the issue to the township, which tended the public parks and municipal playing fields where kids spent time. "It was bad enough to have pesticides wafting through the window," he says. "But the real concern we had was, 'Good grief, what happens 20 or 30 years from now'? Nobody knows."

Exactly, says Steinberg. He notes that the herbicide known as 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D), which has been used to kill broadleaf weeds since the 1940s, "is all over my neighborhood. It's all over the United States." He adds, "It's been persuasively linked to cancer, reproductive harm, and neurological impairment. But does that mean we'll get cancer tomorrow? Of course not. But what are we, some sort of lab experiment here? Why would we take the chance?"

Three Canadian provinces -- Quebec, Ontario, and New Brunswick -- have banned the use and sale of 2,4-D and dozens of other pesticides for lawn care. (Dow AgroSciences, a manufacturer of 2,4-D, has filed a legal challenge.) Canada has "taken a completely different approach than we have in the United States," says Deborah A. Cory-Slechta, Ph.D., a professor of environmental medicine at the University of Rochester. "Here, a chemical is presumed to be safe until proven otherwise. Canada says, 'No, you have to demonstrate that a product is safe before we go down this path.'"

Paul Tukey, the author of The Organic Lawn Care Manual, puts it more bluntly: "They're always saying, 'Prove it. Prove it's bad.' Their arguments aren't based on the fact that their products are good. Their arguments are based on the fact that you can't prove definitively that your cancer was caused by their lawn pesticide."

To Joe Speeney, the debate was sort of beside the point. Caution was the simple solution. And he didn't want his son Dan to become an exhibit for someone else's argument.

In that argument, discussion always turns to 2,4-D, the ubiquitous weed killer. It's commonly mixed with fertilizer in "weed and feed" formulations such as Scotts Turf Builder with Plus 2 Weed Control. The chemical earned notoriety as one of its two main ingredients in Agent Orange, the Vietnam-era defoliant. (The other ingredient, 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid, contained trace amounts of dinoprop, which was later banned.) Some 46 million pounds of 2,4-D are used each year in agriculture and lawn care in the United States, according to the EPA. And a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services database lists nearly two dozen products containing the chemical.

Over the past two decades, research has linked 2,4-D to a slew of malignancies -- most prominently non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, endocrine disruption, changes in estrogen and testosterone levels, reproductive abnormalities, prostate cancer, and damage to developing nervous systems. But a 2004 EPA report found that "none of the more recent epidemiological studies definitively link human cancer cases to 2,4-D." In 2005, the EPA reupped 2,4-D's registration.

In 2007, it decided not to pursue a special review of the chemical, citing a lack of evidence linking it with cancer.

http://www.menshealth.com/men/health/other-diseases-ailments/lawn_..cal-hazards%2FArticle%2F7F7Sed96ed998210gavcm10000030281eac%2F4
So the chemical is linked to cancer by some scientists but not "definitively linked" by the government. Which raises this question: If the chemicals are so dangerous and widespread, where are the bodies? Shouldn't we be seeing millions of cancer deaths?

"What we have is a theoretical body count from pesticides," says Jeff Gillman, Ph.D., a horticulturist and entomologist who teaches pesticide use and nursery management at the University of Minnesota. But he won't guess at a number.

It's difficult to draw a clear link between long-term exposure and health problems, compared with, say, swallowing a jug of bug killer, developing seizures, and dying soon afterward, says Dr. Karr.

A 1990 study of farmers in Nebraska, for instance, found that 2,4-D exposure substantially increased the risk of non-Hodgkins lymphoma, even when the researchers adjusted for exposure to other chemicals. Yet a 2001 study of 1,517 employees of Dow Chemical Company who had been exposed to the chemical uncovered no significant increase in risk of mortality due to the disease. The study did, however, find an increase in the risk of mortality due to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis — Lou Gehrig's disease.

The EPA's assurances have been questioned by independent researchers. According to a 2008 report by the U.S. Government Accountability Office, the EPA's risk-assessment system is "at serious risk of becoming obsolete" because of the agency's inability to "complete timely, credible [chemical-risk] assessments."

Another problem: Only the pesticide's active ingredient -- the chemical that kills the pest -- is shown on a product's label. "But there are other so-called inert ingredients that have health and toxicity risks as well," says Dr. Karr. "Because those are considered trade secrets, however, we have no way of knowing what they are."

Skeptical researchers also point out that even though the EPA evaluates every product on shelves, multiple products are often present on lawns, including herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, and weed-and-feed products that combine fertilizers and pesticides in the same bag.

Cory-Slechta, of the University of Rochester, says she doesn't have a lot of confidence in typical testing. "When we study chemicals this way, what we'll find are exposure levels that we're defining as safe when they're studied alone, but that aren't safe when they occur in conjunction with other chemicals. It's very likely that we're underestimating risks."

On the Scotts Miracle-Gro Web site, you can punch in your zip code and it will spit out a lawn-building program for you. Steinberg entered zip codes from all over the country.

"What I found out," he says, chuckling, "was that I was getting the same advice: 'Buy four bags of our stuff and throw it down.'"

Over-treatment is a primary concern of critics. "Why would you take the risk?" Tukey says. "Even if there's a 2 percent chance that it could cause harm to your kids, why would you take that risk? For a dandelion?"

In the case of fertilizer, excess amounts of the product can wash into the watershed, wreaking environmental havoc, such as the phytoplankton blooms that cause dead zones in coastal waters around the world. A spokesman for Scotts-Miracle-Gro counters that the company has gone to great pains to research the appropriate nutritional needs for consumers' lawns, and that it cautions against overfertilizing.

"These products are different from any household-use product," says Chris Wible, director of environmental stewardship for the Scotts-Miracle-Gro Company, in Marysville, Ohio, the nation's top seller of lawn and garden products, with $3 billion in annual sales. "In fact, they go through more scrutiny and testing than most household-use products."

As for appropriate amounts of lawn treatments, "It's kind of like diet and exercise," he says. "... diet being the right product that meets the proper nutritional needs of the lawn, exercise being kind of like the cultural practices -- mowing your grass high so you have tall grass blades and deep roots, crowding out weeds. The bottom line, Wible says, is "if you have good nutrition and you maintain a lawn well, you reduce the need for additional inputs."

To which Paul Tukey would say, You can reduce that need to zero.

Tukey has the passion of the converted: Before he wrote a book about organic lawns, he'd been on the other side.

"I was a professional lawn-care guy," he says. "I had 800 lawn-care clients and was spraying pesticides on probably 750 of those lawns. And I was making a lot of money doing it. We were grossing well in excess of a million dollars a year, and pesticides were a big part of that."

He looks back with a shiver of irony. He once boasted about how he'd eliminated weeds from the lawn at a Maine hospital -- a lawn where cancer patients took daily strolls. He considered weed-and-feed products godsends. "With one pass of a lawn spreader, we could feed the grass, kill the weeds, and still have time for a round of golf at the course we so envied," he writes in The Organic Lawn Care Manual.

By 1994, however, things had changed. "I was in the hospital with blurred vision and headaches and nosebleeds and vomiting," he says. "I was an absolute mess."

Clarity arrived one day in a hardware store. A broken bag of weed-and-feed had spilled onto the floor, and a little girl was making sand castles out of it. Tukey lost it, telling the store manager, "You've got poisons all over the floor!" The manager replied, "They have to put those warnings on the label by law, but there's nothing wrong with any of it." And that, Tukey says now, "is the fundamental belief of a vast majority of the American public."

Tukey's doctor told him, "If you keep using all those lawn chemicals, you're going to be dead." So Tukey stopped; the symptoms disappeared almost immediately. He says he's suffered no long-term effects beyond an elevated sensitivity to perfumes and pesticides. He considers himself lucky. "Not everyone reads the same way to chemical exposures," he says, "just like not everyone handles alcohol the same way and not everyone develops cancer from smoking. Genes, diet, weight, and all sorts of factors play into it."

He converted to all-organic lawn care shortly after the hardware-store incident. Today Tukey advocates using compost (to fertilize) and corn gluten meal (for weed control), spreading grass seed over a lawn to thicken turf and choke out weeds, and leaving clippings on the lawn. But he still likes the look of a freshly mowed lawn.

"We're living in a society that's been so exposed to pesticides it's hard for people to make the mental leap," says Steinberg. "The symbol is the brown lawn. People associate that with healthy soil."

It's been 4 years since Speaney's home in Bernards Township was fogged. He lobbied town officials to go organic, and they agreed. The township now tends its sports fields using organic methods, and today, "Pesticide Free Zone" signs guard every park in town, he says. The neighborhood association agreed to stop using pesticides on the grass behind his building. Some of the lawns are no longer perfect, he admits -- crabgrass and dandelions grow here and there.

That's to be expected, says the University of Minnesota's Gillman. A natural lawn can look good, but it won't look like a chemically treated one. You have to gut out a year or so of a meager, not greener, lawn. The first year of corn gluten treatment won't be effective at all, he says. "The second and third years, it will start to work reasonably well -- we call it 80 percent control -- which some people will find completely unacceptable. And some people will think is great. It just depends on your outlook."

Gillman is realistic. There are few natural, selective herbicides. And organic lawn care's biggest drawback are already-established weeds. The solution: "It's called weeding. You use your hands and you get in there and dig the plants out."
Knock yourself out, the industry says. "If that's your preference, go for it," says Reardon of the trade group RISE. But if you're doing it because of safety concerns, she says, you've fallen for emotional appeals and misperceptions, "I think consumers should have whatever choices the market will bear," she says. "But [forgoing chemicals] is not necessary from a health perspective."

Critics say the market is warped by advertising that shames American men into conforming their yards to the image of a perfect lawn. Tukey's old business preyed on this: Crabgrass, he says, means 'you're not fit to live in this neighborhood.'

So should we trust the EPA and the pesticide makers who swear our kids and pets can roll around in their products? Or should we swear off the weed-and-feed aisle and go organic? Gillman's advice: "Put up with a few freaking dandelions. I think that really summarizes it."

These days, Joe Speeney and his wife like to gaze out the back window of their townhouse at the pleasant, squealing chaos on their patch of green. "There are seven kids in my building," he says, "and they and my son all play back there now. We feel pretty good about it."

His lawn is no longer perfect, but it's not appreciably shabbier. The kids pluck spent dandelions and blow the seeds into the wind. To Speeney, it's a sight more beautiful than perfection.

The Lazy Man's Guide To A Safe And Healthy Lawn

Chemical fertilizers and herbicides are like steroids for lawns--effective, but a health risk. They kill beneficial organisms and degrade the soil. Step one: Stop the chemicals. Then...

Leave the clippings

Left alone, clippings break down, returning nutrients, such as nitrogen and potassium, to the soil, says Chip Osborne, president of Osborne Organics. Use a mulching mower for faster decomposition.

Mark your turf

Organic, water-insoluble fertilizers release nitrogen slowly and steadily. They don't affect soil life -- a good thing -- and are gentler on your grass. Doug Oster, author of Tomatoes Garlic Basil, recommends Jonathan Green products (jonathangreen.com). Or feed the lawn with compost tea, which is organic matter steeped in water, says Elaine Ingham, Ph.D., president of Soil Foodweb.

Plant Dutch clover

This tough plant was once a common component of lawns, but it was wiped out by modern weed killers. Bring it back by overseeding your lawn with clover, which will add nitrogen to your grass, Oster says.

Water carefully

Deep watering every couple of weeks is better than light, frequent drizzlings -- it helps the roots dig deep, Oster says. Thick grass crowds out weeds.

Control weeds and insects gently

Corn gluten meal prevents crabgrass and other weeds from germinating if it's applied early in the season. For grubs, use milky spore, a bacteria that kills 'em dead but harms nothing else.

The Chemical Trail

The chemicals you spread on your lawn kill weeds and bugs, but they may harm your family and pets as well. Traces of toxins linger in the turf, the air, the water, and even your living room. Sometimes they become more toxic at low doses, according to a recent study published in Science of the Total Environment.

The air

Pesticides can remain in the air for days after they're applied, notes a 2008 EPA study. And if your home's air filtration system pulls the poison indoors, a lack of sunlight can allow the pesticides to linger longer, the EPA has found. In one study, indoor air contained detectable levels of 2,4-D, a widely used weed killer linked to sperm abnormalities and miscarriage.

The carpet

Chemicals you track inside may adhere to carpet, posing a danger to pets and children who play on the floor, researchers say. Contact with pesticides may increase your risk of melanoma, a European Journal of Cancer study found, while childhood exposure may cause leukemia and other cancers. Vacuuming carpets resuscitates embedded particles, potentially increasing your exposure, say University of Texas researchers.

The soil

Children love to play on lawns, and they often put objects in their mouths. So they may ingest chemicals in the soil or absorb them through their skin, the EPA warns. Because their internal organs are still developing, their immune systems provide less protection than those of adults do, and their excretory systems may not fully remove pesticides.

The water

Residential pesticides wash into streams, eventually contaminating groundwater and drinking wells, the U.S. Geological Survey found. Each year, Americans apply 40,000 tons of atrazine, an herbicide that is now found in water supplies and linked to reduced sperm count and immune-system damage, Japanese scientists say.

LAURA ROSERSON

http://www.menshealth.com/men/health/other-diseases-ailments/lawn-chemical-hazards/article/7f5edd96ed998210vgncm10000030281eac4/2010 RODALE INC. ALL rights reserved
Subject: FW: Parks & General Services - Integrated Pest Management - City of Davis

City of Davis

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Integrated Pest Management

PGS Home
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Integrated Pest Management Policy

More about IPM

- What is IPM?
- Daily Pesticide Hotline
- 2009 IPM Annual Report & Powerpoint Presentation
- The EXTERMINATOR Comic Book!
- IPM Policy
• Pesticide Use in Parks (PHAER Zones)

Pests in the Home and Garden:
• Rats and Rat Control
• Weeds and Weed Control
• Insects
• Sticky Sidewalks?
• Living With Urban Wildlife

Useful Links and Resources

Questions about the IPM Program should be directed to the Parks & General Services Department, (530) 757-5656, or to pgsweb@cityofdavis.org.

The IPM policy presented here is a culmination of years of input from various citizens, citizen commissions, consultants, city council actions and staff recommendations to the City of Davis. It is a consistent policy for all departments and their contractors that manage pest for the City of Davis.

This policy was modeled after San Francisco’s IPM policy that was developed in 1996. In addition it includes a pest control strategy known as the Pesticide Hazard and Exposure Reduction (PHAER) Zone System. The PHAER Zone System seeks ways to measure progress towards risk reduction goals, it allows grounds managers needed flexibility in their management options, and it informs the community about the general level of pesticide hazard that could be present on a site-by-site basis.

The PHAER Zone System establishes management zones on each site based upon the unique risk reduction goals of individual jurisdictions. These zones are designated as Green, Yellow, and Special Circumstance Zones, with Green Zones providing the lowest potential for pesticide hazard and exposure. Each Zone has a corresponding pesticide list determined by existing toxicological data.

This policy provides consistency among all city departments, and was reviewed by Natural Resources Commission on September 22, 2008, the Open Space Commission on October 6, 2008 and the Recreation and Parks Commission on October 16, 2008. The policy was approved by City Council on December 2, 2008.

Implementation is occurring throughout the city’s parks and greenbelts with trials being conducted on alternative methods of control such as solarization and “green” pesticides incorporated with known effective practices like irrigation management and mulching.

PHAER zone implementation for individual parks will proceed as follows:
7. 2011 through 2014: Remaining parks, ball fields and greenbelts.

IPM Policy Documents:
• Staff Report to Council [PDF]
This page provides documents in PDF format - a standard for electronic publishing. Please use Adobe Acrobat to view these files. If you do not have Adobe Acrobat Reader, click on the "Get Acrobat" button to the right to get this useful program.
Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Schools

Resources

- Healthy School Environments
- Pesticides and Food:
  - What IPM means

Protecting Children in Schools from Pests and Pesticides

Pesticides are powerful tools for controlling pests. However, pesticides need to be used carefully and judiciously, especially when used in sensitive areas where children are present. Children are more sensitive
than adults to pesticides. Young children can have greater exposure to pesticides from crawling, exploring, or other hand-to-mouth activities.

The EPA recommends that schools use integrated pest management (IPM) to reduce pesticide risk and exposure to children. Put simply, IPM is a safer, and usually less costly option for effective pest management in a school community. A school IPM program uses common sense strategies to reduce sources of food, water and shelter for pests in your school buildings and grounds. An IPM program takes advantage of all pest management strategies, including the judicious and careful use of pesticides when necessary.

Since children spend so much of their day at school, integrated pest management provides an opportunity to create a safer learning environment - - to reduce children’s exposure to pesticides as well as eliminate pests. EPA is encouraging school officials to adopt IPM practices to reduce children’s exposure to pesticides.

On this page:

- Is There a Safer Way to Control Pests?
- How Do You Know If Your School Is Really Using IPM?
- How You Can Get Started
- What Organizations Are Saying about IPM
- Common Pests in School Settings
- School IPM Programs Where You Live and Related Information

Is There a Safer Way to Control Pests?

School administrators and others who have decision-making responsibilities for pest management in and around school buildings and grounds should know that safer options exist.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a safer, and usually less costly option for effective pest management in the school community. A school IPM program employs commonsense strategies to reduce sources of food, water and shelter for pests in your school buildings and grounds. IPM programs take advantage of all pest management strategies, including judicious careful use of pesticides when necessary.
You can make sure that:

- The problem or pest is identified before taking action.
- Vegetation, shrubs and wood mulch should be kept at least one foot away from structures.
- Cracks and crevices in walls, floors and pavement are either sealed or eliminated.
- Lockers and desks are emptied and thoroughly cleaned at least twice yearly.
- Food-contaminated dishes, utensils, surfaces are cleaned by the end of each day.
- Garbage cans and dumpsters are cleaned regularly.
- Litter is collected and disposed of properly at least once a week.
- Fertilizers should be applied several times (e.g., spring, summer, fall) during the year, rather than one heavy application.
- If pesticides are necessary, use spot treatments rather than area-wide applications.

How You Can Get Started

There are several resources available that provide excellent reference information where you can learn more about Integrated Pest Management, and get the tools to start an IPM program at your school.

- HealthySEAT Version 2 - Healthy School Environments Assessment Tool.
- EPA has published a brochure titled "Protecting Children in Schools from Pests and Pesticides." The brochure provides resources, success stories and examples of IPM practices for safer pest management within our Nation's schools. A copy of the brochure may be obtained on-line by contacting the National Service Center for Environmental Publications (NSCEP), or by phone at 1-800-490-9198. The EPA publication number is EPA-735-F-02-014.
- The popular EPA booklet, "Pest Control in the School Environment: Adopting IPM" is designed to encourage and assist school officials in examining and improving their pest management practices. It identifies ways to reduce the use of pesticides in school buildings and landscapes, as well as alternative methods of managing pests commonly found in schools. A copy of the booklet may be obtained on-line by
contacting the NSCEP, or by phone at 1-800-490-9198. The EPA publication number is EPA 735-F-93-012.

- Supported by EPA, the University of Florida's IPM in Schools [exit disclaimer] provides a wealth of valuable, free, useful information for school administrators, staff members, pest managers, and parents to start an IPM program.

- National School IPM Information Source [exit disclaimer] from the University of Florida web site provides IPM resource information by state. The EPA Regional school IPM contact can provide you with the latest information on school IPM.


- EPA Supported Technical Resource Centers for IPM in Schools and Day Cares: The following centers have been created to provide tools, training and technical support for schools and day care centers to start an IPM program. Training opportunities, IPM principles, and specific management techniques are available for custodial and maintenance staff.
  - Purdue University's IPM Technical Resource Center [exit disclaimer] serves Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin, 1-877-668-8476.
  - Texas A&M University's IPM Technical Resource Center [exit disclaimer] serves Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma, 1-877-747-6872.

- Video: Integrated Pest Management in Schools (A Better Method) explains in simple language what IPM is and how to get it started. Available on-line from the Safer Pest Control Project [exit disclaimer], or by phone at 312-641-5575.

- Video: SP-292 ABCs of IPM Training Series is designed to introduce IPM concepts and help school district personnel implement IPM programs, and is available from the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. [exit disclaimer]

- IPM school contacts:

  Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division (7511P)
  Environmental Stewardship Branch / Sherry Glick (glick.sherry@epa.gov)
  U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
  Ariel Rios Building
  1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
  Washington, D.C. 20460
For outreach materials including "Read the Label First" contact our publication center the NSCEP.

If you have a question about a pesticide, contact: National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) at 1-800-858-7378, or by e-mail inquiry (npic@ace.orst.edu)

What Organizations are Saying about IPM

EPA is helping schools understand and implement IPM by distributing printed publications and supporting projects that demonstrate variable and sustainable school IPM programs. Here are some examples of successful IPM demonstrations:

"Monroe County Indiana achieved a 92 percent reduction in pesticide use, enabling them to also direct their cost savings to hire a district-wide coordinator to oversee pest management in the schools. As a result of this achievement, Monroe County was awarded the Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention. The Monroe County IPM Program has now evolved into the Monroe School IPM Model. By using this Model, the emphasis is placed on minimizing the use of broad spectrum chemicals, and on maximizing the use of sanitation, biological controls and selective methods of application." -- Monroe County Community Schools Corporation, Indiana

"In the Vista de las Cruces School in California, pest management costs went from $1,740 a year to $270 (plus labor) for two years." -- Santa Barbara, California

"The Kyrene School District reduced pesticide applications by 90 percent and kept pest populations below 85 percent of their original levels by using IPM. Due to the overwhelming success, their IPM program was expanded to all the Kyrene district schools in spring 2001 (27 schools)." -- Kyrene School District Facilities Manager, Arizona

"In managing pests, the emphasis should be placed on minimizing the use of broad spectrum chemicals, and on maximizing the use of sanitation, biological controls and selective methods of application." -- American Public Health Association

"A healthy school environment is essential. All students and staff have a right to learn and work in a healthy school environment, safe from air pollution, radiation, sound and mechanical stress, and chemical exposures." -- National Association of School Nurses
"National PTA supports efforts [IPM implementation] at the federal, state, and local levels to eliminate the environmental health hazards caused by pesticide use in and around schools." — National Parent Teacher Association

Common Pests in School Settings

Some pests common in schools can harm both children and adults.

- Flies and cockroaches may spread disease.
- Cockroaches can cause allergies and asthma attacks.
- Yellow jacket stings are painful and can be life-threatening to those with allergies.
- Spiders may inflict painful bites and some may pose a health risk.
- Mice may contaminate food, trigger asthma attacks and cause structural damage.
- Termites cause structural damage.
- Low risk esthetic problems include weeds invading playgrounds; ants swarming and fruit flies in the kitchen

School IPM Programs Where You Live and Related Information

[Alabama V] [GO]
TO: Health and Safety Commission  
FROM: Pamela Mottice Muller, Director of Emergency Management  
DATE: July 20, 2010  
SUBJECT: Operation Golden Phoenix  

A presentation on Operation Golden Phoenix will be provided to the Commission. The Los Angeles County Disaster exercise will be held on July 28th. Staff will review the City's participation and provide information and preparedness tips for a nuclear detonation. See attached manuals.
(1) **Duck & cover when you see a flash:** Stay down behind cover for at least two full minutes. Any type of cover could prevent serious burns and injuries from flying and falling debris such as broken glass. Keep your eyes closed during the bright light to prevent blindness.

(2) **Go in. Stay in. Tune in.** Shelter-in-place by going underground or to the center of a middle floor of a nearby, stable, large building. If at home, go to the basement or a ground floor room the farthest from outside. Close windows and doors. It may be necessary to shelter for 24 to 48 hours. Keep disaster kits containing food, water, medications, and other supplies in your vehicle, at work, and at home (see reverse side). Maintain communications (Rule 5).

(3) **Radioactive fallout** could look like sand, silt, smoke, or even ash that will fall and accumulate on the ground and horizontal surfaces. The direction of the fallout cloud spread depends on surface AND upper level winds. Stay upwind especially if it is daylight and you can see the direction of the fallout cloud. Any visible fallout represents immediate danger and exposure to even small amounts, only detectable by radiation monitoring instruments, should be avoided.

(4) **Radiation levels** from deposited fallout decrease rapidly in the hours after detonation. As a rule of thumb, if fallout deposition is complete by 1 hour after detonation, the radiation level at 7 hours drops to 10% of the radiation level at 1 hour, and the radiation level at 2 days drops to 1% of the radiation level at 1 hour. However, depending on wind and weather, fallout deposition miles from a detonation may continue or even begin after 1 hour, and the radiation level may rise at first before dropping off.

(5) **Maintain communications** with local authorities by monitoring the radio, TV, or the Internet. Follow the directions of local authorities.

(6) **Protective equipment for the public:** Fallout contamination will collect on outer garments and exposed body parts. Masks or improvised breathing protection (several layers of cloth) may be used during fallout cloud passage.

(7) **Contamination removal:** To avoid bringing fallout contamination into your shelter or home, most contamination can be removed by taking off the outer layer of clothes, wiping exposed hair and skin areas, and/or by taking a shower.

(8) **Orderly evacuation of your shelter-in-place location** when told by authorities it is safe to leave the area. Do not leave your shelter to pick up children. Children will be sheltered at their school or other care location and evacuated, as directed by authorities. Follow the directions of emergency responders.

(9) **Hazard avoidance:** Unless threatened by fire or building collapse, avoid outdoor exposure during the first minutes and hours after the fallout arrives. It is safe to consume food and beverages that were not outside during the fallout cloud passage.

(10) **Stay in control:** By following the above rules, you will know the proper actions to take and will not panic during a nuclear emergency.

### Disaster Kit Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A first-aid kit with bandages, gauze, tape, tweezers, antibiotic ointment, pain medication, and cleaning wipes</td>
<td>Three day supply of nonperishable food (canned or freeze-dried) for each family member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hand-cranked radio so that you can hear disaster reports</td>
<td>Battery-operated cell phone charger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battery-operated or hand-cranked flashlight</td>
<td>Three day supply of bottled water per person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nylon or plastic tarp</td>
<td>Mylar blankets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterproof matches</td>
<td>Multipurpose tool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra batteries</td>
<td>Work gloves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duct Tape</td>
<td>Extra Clothing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Items for special needs, e.g., infants, elderly</td>
<td>Prescription medication</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Disaster Kit Contents: Essentials for surviving a nuclear fallout.
JUST-IN-TIME: NUCLEAR DETONATION – 10 RULES FOR EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

1. Duck & cover when you see a flash. Stay down behind cover for at least two full minutes. Any type of cover could prevent serious burns and injuries from flying and falling debris such as broken glass. Keep eyes closed during the bright light to prevent blindness.

2. Go in. Stay in. Tune in. Shelter-in-place by going underground or to the center of the middle floor of a nearby, stable large building. Minimize the time exposed to radiation (Rule 9). Maintain communications (Rule 5).

3. Radioactive fallout occurs soon after the detonation and it will fall and accumulate on the ground. The direction of the fallout plume spread is dependent on surface AND upper level winds. Generally, stay upwind especially if you can see the direction of the plume’s movement. Fallout may or may not be visible on the ground. Radioactive fallout can be detected ONLY by using radiation monitoring instruments.

4. Use the “Inverse” 7/10 Rule: Fallout loses 90% of its radioactivity in the first 7 hours after a detonation and an additional 90% for every 7-fold increase in time. It is reduced: by 90% in the first seven hours; by 99% in 49 hours (two days); and, by 99.9% in 343 hours (two weeks)

5. Maintain communications with local, tribal, and state authorities and other response elements; provide a scene assessment for the regional situation assessment center (e.g., EOC). Report visible fallout and approximate radiation levels in the area and the times they were taken at regular intervals. Monitor the media including radio, TV, and the Internet.

6. PPE for emergency responders. External fallout contamination will collect on outer garments and exposed body parts. No PPE will protect responders from external gamma radiation. Although inhalation and ingestion are a secondary concern compared to external gamma radiation exposure, masks or improvised respiratory protection may be used during fallout plume passage, for smoke and dust, and for high indoor radiation levels.

7. Contamination removal. Most external contamination can be removed by taking off the outer layer of clothes, wiping exposed hair and skin areas, and/or by taking a shower.

8. Fight fires. The detonation will cause fires in the area where populations are sheltered; take actions to slow the spread of fire.

9. Responders with radiation monitoring instruments should initially shelter using these instruments to monitor shelter conditions and not exit the shelter if it requires entering a dangerous radiation zone (>10 R/hr) unless there is a time critical safety issue such as avoiding fire, a building collapse, or an evident lifesaving mission. Provided outdoor radiation levels are below 10 R/hr, perform scene assessment of the immediate area for hazards. Stay close to shelter locations and closely monitor radiation levels and immediately shelter if radiation levels increase rapidly. Responders without radiation monitoring equipment should shelter as long as practical or until informed that they are not in the dangerous radiation zone (> 10 R/hr).

10. Establish safe evacuation routes from dangerous radiation zones (>10 R/hr) and identify evacuation priorities. Establish triage, decontamination, and casualty collection points outside of dangerous fallout zones (in areas <10mR/hr).
TO: Health and Safety Commission  
FROM: Jessica Barcellona, Office of Emergency Management Intern  
DATE: July 26, 2010  
SUBJECT: Flu and Vaccines FAQs  
ATTACHMENT: Flu FAQs

In preparation for the upcoming flu season, the attached "Flu FAQs" document will be posted on the City of Beverly Hills website. The document includes information for the public regarding the upcoming 2010-2011 flu season, flu vaccinations and vaccine-preventable diseases such as mumps and whooping cough. No action from the Health and Safety Commission is required.
**Flu FAQs**

Flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. The California State Department of Public Health (http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Influenza(Flu).aspx) stresses that the best way to prevent flu is by getting a flu vaccination each fall.

**Who should get the flu vaccine this fall?**

The California Department of Public Health recommends that the following groups of people get a flu vaccine each fall:

- Adults 50 and older
- Children aged 6 months up to their 19th birthday.
- Pregnant women
- Nursing home residents
- Health care workers
- Individuals with a chronic health condition
- People who live with or care for an adult over 50, a child under 5, or anyone with a chronic health condition.

**Last year I got two flu shots — one for seasonal flu and one for H1N1 — will I have to get two shots this flu season?**

For the 2010-2011 flu season, which begins in the fall of 2010, the seasonal flu vaccine will include protection against H1N1 flu. According to the California Department of Public Health, most Americans will be able to return to having one flu vaccine to protect them against the major circulating flu viruses, including the H1N1 virus. As is always the case with seasonal vaccine, younger children who have never had a seasonal vaccine will still need two doses.

**Does the addition of the H1N1 virus to the flu vaccine mean the pandemic is over?**

No, the pandemic is not over.

According to the World Health Organization (http://www.who.int/csr/disease/influenza/en/) (WHO), almost all countries have experienced outbreaks of the pandemic virus. Currently, most countries have passed the peak of transmission. The overall global transmission level is declining.

From past pandemics, the WHO knows that an influenza pandemic can have more than one wave. WHO will continue to work very closely to monitor the pandemic and will provide recommendations on what to do when the world enters a post-peak period (a time of transition...
when pandemic activity is declining globally but may be continuing at various levels in different parts of the world).

How can I continue to protect myself and my family from the flu?

The California Department of Public Health suggests you continue to protect yourself and your family from getting the flu and other respiratory infections by washing your hands frequently, covering your cough with a sleeve or a tissue, and staying home if you are sick.

While the U.S. is no longer in a situation that requires a Public Health Emergency declaration, the H1N1 flu is still circulating, and the H1N1 vaccine is still safe, effective, and available in some regions. This may be especially important for people traveling to the Southern Hemisphere, where it is currently influenza season. Starting in the fall, the seasonal flu vaccine for the 2010-2011 flu season will also be available, which protects against three different flu viruses, including the H1N1 flu.

Other Vaccine-Preventable Diseases

The flu is not the only disease that can be prevented by receiving a vaccine. Vaccine-preventable diseases such as mumps and whooping cough (pertussis) are on the rise in L.A. County (http://www.lapublichealth.org/ip/parents.htm). Safe and effective vaccines which prevent disease are available for both mumps and whooping cough. The Centers for Disease Control (http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/)(CDC) and L.A. County Department of Public Health, among other health professionals, recommend immunizing children against these preventable diseases.

Why is it important to get vaccinated?

According to the CDC, vaccinations protect the community and individuals from serious, potentially fatal, communicable diseases. Getting vaccinated protects the individual who received the shot as well as reduces vulnerable populations’ risk of exposure to infectious diseases. Infants, individuals with underlying medical conditions and others who cannot be vaccinated are considered vulnerable populations.

Who should get vaccinated?

In general, the CDC and L.A. County Department of Public Health recommend that all children receive the MMRV (measles, mumps, rubella and varicella) and DTP (diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis) immunizations. It is possible for adults who have not been vaccinated or who need booster shots to catch up on their immunizations.

Where can I get more information?

For more information, speak to your personal health care provider regarding concerns about immunizations and to receive vaccines. L.A. County offers assistance for those individuals who do not have a regular health care provider or insurance coverage for vaccines. Interested individuals can get more information by dialing 211 or visiting the LA County Department of Public Health website (www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip)
For Immediate Release:  
July 20, 2010

Pertussis claims a third life in Los Angeles County  
State has released new, broader vaccination recommendations

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health today reported the third death due to pertussis countywide so far this year. The announcement comes as the California Department of Public Health has expanded its vaccination recommendations amid rising numbers of pertussis cases throughout the state.

In addition to the usual series of childhood pertussis vaccinations, the California Department of Public Health now recommends an adolescent-adult pertussis booster vaccine (Tdap) for:

• anyone 7 years and older who is not fully immunized, including those who are more than 64 years old,
• women of childbearing age, before, during, or immediately after pregnancy

“This expanded set of recommendations is an appropriate response to the epidemic in Los Angeles County and statewide,” said Jonathan E. Fielding, MD, MPH, Director of Public Health and Health Officer. “Vaccination is our best defense against pertussis. This is a disease that is especially dangerous for infants under six months of age, who are not old enough to have received the number of vaccine doses needed to be protected against whooping cough.”

This year, 289 possible cases have been reported in LA County, of which 184 are laboratory confirmed, probable, or suspected. For all of 2009, the corresponding number of cases was 156. It has claimed three lives, all of whom were infants, in LA County. In an average year, LA County has 0 - 1 deaths attributable to pertussis.

“Infants are most likely to be infected by parents, grandparents, older siblings, day care workers, and other caregivers who have whooping cough but often don’t know that this disease is the reason for their symptoms,” said Dr. Fielding. “People suffering from a cough illness who have contact with infants should seek medical care immediately. Anyone who lives with or has frequent contact with an infant should ensure that their vaccinations are up-to-date.”

According to one recent study, when the source of the infant’s infection could be identified, 41 percent of infants infected with pertussis contracted the disease from a sibling, 38 percent from their mother, and 17 percent from their father. As such, anyone who has frequent contact with an infant is urged to make sure that their vaccinations are up-to-date. In addition, anyone with a cough-illness of any kind should avoid contact with infants.

Pertussis is spread by the coughing of an infected individual. Typical symptoms in young children include intense coughing accompanied by a whooping sound, and post-cough vomiting. However, some infants infected with pertussis may not show typical symptoms, but can still
suffer life-threatening complications, which can include pneumonia and seizures. Among older children and adults, the primary symptom may be a cough that often lasts for several weeks or longer. If you suspect that you or a loved one may have pertussis, contact your doctor right away.

Children should receive three primary vaccinations containing the pertussis vaccine and two boosters by age four to six, followed by a Tdap booster (which protects against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) during their preteen years. Any teen or adult who has not received a Tdap booster yet should do so, particularly if they are in contact with an infant. Los Angeles County residents are encouraged to contact their regular healthcare provider to arrange for recommended vaccinations.

Everyone should also practice standard hygiene habits in order to help prevent the spread of any illness. These healthy habits include washing your hands often with soap and water, staying home from work or school when sick, avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes appropriately with a tissue.

Those who do not have a regular healthcare provider or insurance coverage for vaccines may dial 2-1-1 or visit www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip for referrals to providers and community sites offering immunizations free or at a reduced-charge.

For more information on preventing the spread of whooping cough or other illnesses, visit the Public Health website at http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov.

The Department of Public Health is committed to protecting and improving the health of the nearly 10 million residents of Los Angeles County. Through a variety of programs, community partnerships and services, Public Health oversees environmental health, disease control, and community and family health. Public Health comprises more than 4,000 employees and has an annual budget exceeding $750 million. To learn more about Public Health and the work we do, please visit http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov, visit our YouTube channel at http://www.youtube.com/lapublichealth, or follow us on Twitter: LAPublicHealth.

# # #