



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Review of Fomesafen Incident Reports
DP Barcode D331945, Chemical #123802

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BACKGROUND

The following data bases have been consulted for the poisoning incident data on the active ingredient Fomesafen (123802):

- 1) OPP Incident Data System (IDS) - reports of incidents from various sources, including registrants, other federal and state health and environmental agencies and individual consumers, submitted to OPP since 1992. Reports submitted to the Incident Data System represent anecdotal reports or allegations only, unless otherwise stated. Typically no conclusions can be drawn implicating the pesticide as a cause of any of the reported health effects. Nevertheless, sometimes with enough cases and/or documentation risk mitigation measures may be suggested.
- 2) Poison Control Centers - as the result of a data purchase by EPA, OPP received Poison Control Center data covering the years 1993 through 2003 for all pesticides. Most of the national Poison Control Centers (PCCs) participate in a national data collection system, the

Toxic Exposure Surveillance System which obtains data from about 65-70 centers at hospitals and universities. PCCs provide telephone consultation for individuals and health care providers on suspected poisonings, involving drugs, household products, pesticides, etc.

3) California Department of Pesticide Regulation - California has collected uniform data on suspected pesticide poisonings since 1982. Physicians are required, by statute, to report to their local health officer all occurrences of illness suspected of being related to exposure to pesticides. The majority of the incidents involve workers. Information on exposure (worker activity), type of illness (systemic, eye, skin, eye/skin and respiratory), likelihood of a causal relationship, and number of days off work and in the hospital are provided.

4) National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) - NPIC is a toll-free information service supported by OPP. A ranking of the top 200 active ingredients for which telephone calls were received during calendar years 1984-1991, inclusive has been prepared. The total number of calls was tabulated for the categories human incidents, animal incidents, calls for information, and others.

5) National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health's Sentinel Event Notification System for Occupational Risks (NIOSH SENSOR) performs standardized surveillance in nine states from 1998 through 2003. States included in this reporting system are Arizona, California, Florida, Louisiana, Michigan, New York, Oregon, Texas, and Washington. Reporting is very uneven from state to state because of the varying cooperation from different sources of reporting (e.g., workers compensation, Poison Control Centers, emergency departments and hospitals, enforcement investigations, private physicians, etc.). Therefore, these reports should not be characterized as estimating the total magnitude of poisoning. The focus is on occupationally-related cases not residential or other non-occupational exposures. However, the information collected on each case is standardized and categorized according the certainty of the information collected and the severity of the case.

FOMESAFEN REVIEW

I. Incident Data System

Incident#7666-66

A pesticide incident occurred in 1998, when a thirty year old man reported skin irritation. He mixed a five-gallon product with 500 gallons of water when the hose broke and the product splashed in his eyes, mouth, and face. The man drank milk and flushed his face and eyes for twenty minutes. No further information on the disposition of the case was reported.

Incident#7666-81

A pesticide incident occurred in 1998, when a man, who did wear personal protective equipment, reported skin irritation and pain and pruritus. He had used the product for the first time and immediately reported red, itchy, and painful bumps on his chin, neck, back, buttocks, and legs. No further information on the disposition of the case was reported.

Incident#11844-4

A pesticide incident occurred in 2001, when a forty-two year old man reported cellulitis, irritation, pain, and burns. He used the product and some of it got into his shoe. The man immediately washed himself with soap and water and was later treated by a physician. No further information on the disposition of the case was reported.

II. Poison Control Center Data - 1993 through 2003

Results for the years 1993 through 2003 on the Poison Control Center show only two cases reported for fomesafen. One exposure was in the occupational class that produced dermal symptoms such as a skin rash. The other exposure affected a child and no symptoms were reported for this case.

III. California Data - 1982 through 2003

There were no reports of cases related to fomesafen.

IV. National Pesticide Information Center

On the list of the top 200 chemicals for which NPIC received calls from 1984-1991 inclusively, fomesafen was not reported to be involved in human incidents.

V. NIOSH SENSOR

Out of 5,899 reported cases from 1998-2003, none involved fomesafen.

VI. Scientific Literature

No scientific literature was found concerning human poisoning or other adverse effects from exposure to fomesafen.

VII. Conclusion

There were almost no reports of ill effects from exposure to fomesafen in the available data bases.

VIII. Recommendations

No recommendations are made based on the limited information available.

cc: Fomesafen (123802)
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