

The following was prepared by the Fluoride Action Network Pesticide Project and was included in a submission to USEPA on December 16, 2005, as Appendix A (see <http://www.fluorideaction.org/pesticides/sf.submission.12-16-05.pdf>).

Deaths from fumigation using “Vikane®” (sulfuryl fluoride)

<p>March 10, 2005 CALIFORNIA Newspaper report</p>	<p>Excerpt from newspaper report: ... An employee of D&S Fumigation had returned to the 30-unit complex around 2 p.m. to check toxicity levels around the building when he heard someone screaming for help and noticed a rustling inside the tent. The employee found Williams and pulled her out, D&S owner Dawn Charrette said.</p> <p>Williams, the mother of five children, died later that day at a San Diego hospital.</p> <p>... State officials said it was apparently the third such death in recent years...</p> <p>Ref. Green K (2005). Fault is disputed in death, gassing. Woman was inside a tented building. The San Diego Union-Tribune (California). March 10.</p> <p>Update: In August 2005, the California San Diego Medical Examiner's Office stated cause of death as pesticide poisoning. Residential/commercial fumigation. Manner of death accidental. Ref: Ellen Connett's telephone inquiry to the San Diego Medical Examiner's Office, California, on December 12, 2005.</p> <p>See</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County of San Diego (California) (2005). Office of the Medical Examiner. Toxicology Report. Name: Williams, Linh Da. March 29. • County of San Diego (California) (2005). Office of the Medical Examiner. Investigative Report. Name: Williams, Linh Da. July 12. • County of San Diego (California) (2005). Office of the Medical Examiner. Amended Autopsy Report. Linh Da Willams. August 23.
<p>From Minutes of a Structural Pest Control Board meeting in Austin, TEXAS. 2002</p>	<p>(page 15) ... Otis Woods, Pioneer Pest Services. " I have a pest control business here or in San Juan up in Dallas, but the situation coming that's up right now about fumigation, we lost a guy who was using Sulfuryl Fluoride, Vikane. It is very dangerous.</p> <p>(page 23) ... Mr. Burnett: Otis, you had mentioned you "lost a guy". He is deceased? Mr. Woods: Yes. Mr. Burnett: If I could ask some follow-up questions to you with that. What kind of training had the deceased received? Mr. Woods: Really the training that he had was just for putting the tarps up. Knowing how to roll the tarps, you know, and sealing the house. He didn't deal with the gases at all. Mr. Burnett: Okay, and how long had this person been on this type of work? Mr. Woods: Couple of years. Mr. Burnett: Couple of years.</p>

	<p>Mr. Woods: About two years I believe.</p> <p>Ref: Structural Pest Control Board (2002). Meeting minutes. Joe C. Thompson Conference Center, Austin, Texas. February 12.</p>
<p>2002 GERMANY From newspaper report.</p>	<p>On 14 October 2002 in St. Vitus village church in Ursensollen, Southern Germany, a seeming routine fumigation resulted in the tragic death of a 39 year old man. A company from Munich was using a subcontractor from Frankfurt to treat woodworm in the roof. Two families (eleven people in total) in an adjacent house were not evacuated in advance of the fumigation and had no reason to suspect anything was amiss as sulfuryl fluoride, the highly toxic gas used, is odourless and colourless. The only person to have remained at home throughout the duration of the fumigation started to feel ill by the evening, experiencing nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, and itchiness. The 39 year old father of three was admitted to hospital the following day but after three hours stopped breathing and died of heart failure shortly after. The remaining ten people who had been in the adjacent building all experienced poisoning symptoms...</p> <p>Ref: Pesticide News 68 (UK) (2005). Sulfuryl fluoride kills bystander. June. Page 23.</p>
<p>Cited in 1991 U.S.A</p>	<p>A 25 year old man with postmortem blood alcohol level of 0.156% was found lifeless in a residence that had been fumigated with sulfuryl fluoride under canvas.</p> <p>Ref: Hayes, W.J., Jr., E.R. Laws, Jr., (eds.). Handbook of Pesticide Toxicology. Volume 2. Classes of Pesticides. New York, NY: Academic Press, Inc., 1991. Page 564.</p> <p>Source: Hazardous Substances Data Bank at Toxnet</p>
<p>September 25, 1986 VIRGINIA</p>	<p>Fatalities Resulting From Sulfuryl Fluoride Exposure After Home Fumigation -- Virginia. Two fatalities occurred when the owners of a home re-entered after the dwelling had been fumigated with 250 pounds of sulfuryl fluoride. The concentration to which the occupants were exposed was not determined. The man died within 24 hr, and the woman expired 6 days after exposure. Signs of intoxication included severe dyspnea, cough, generalized seizure, cardiopulmonary arrest (in the male), and weakness, anorexia, nausea, repeated vomiting, and hypoxemia; ventricular fibrillation and diffuse pulmonary infiltration were also reported in the female.</p> <p>References:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MMWR, Sept. 18, 1987 and • American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, Inc. Documentation of the Threshold Limit Values and Biological Exposure Indices. 6th ed. Volumes I, II, III. Cincinnati, OH: ACGIH, 1991., p. 1471 (Source: Hazardous Substances Data Bank at Toxnet)

Information on the number of human deaths as a result of fumigation with Vikane® is not accessible to the public. Nor is any information available to the public on the number of people who became sick, but didn't die, from exposure to sulfuryl fluoride. It is also unknown to the public if there is any long-term follow-up with workers involved in sulfuryl fluoride fumigation.

NOTE:

**If you have been affected by a fumigation incident,
it is important to report it to your state pesticide or health department.**

**Also, let us know about it:
pesticides@fluoridealert.org**