

Pesticide Exposure Exposed

It has come to my attention that copper sulfate is being sprayed on the farm fields in Del Norte County.

COPPER SULFATE TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION:

Copper Sulfate is extremely harmful by ingestion or if inhaled as dust or mist.

Health Hazards: Material is corrosive in strong aqueous solutions. Dust will severely irritate eyes, skin and mucous membranes. **Inhalation:** Repeated exposure may cause chronic upper respiratory irritation or pulmonary effects. **Skin:** May cause skin irritation. **Eyes:** Causes burns.

Other Health Effects: May cause astringent effect on mucous surfaces. **Medical Symptoms:** Symptoms of acute toxicity may include nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain and diarrhea. Other symptoms may include dryness of mouth and throat, extreme thirst, and metallic taste.

I am proposing that a petition be filed by the residents of Smith River and the rural coastal communities of Del Norte County, California. I am proposing that this petition demand action for a community epidemiological study, a procedural investigation, and immediate relief from an ongoing pattern of public pesticide exposure. The petition would demand that scientific analysis be used to determine the effects of its use with regard to the environment and all who live within it and that no more copper sulfate be sprayed until an investigation is thoroughly completed by the proper agencies. California's rural coastal communities have a history of illness and property damage from pesticide sprays. Similar patterns of illness are occurring throughout this community and may be related to the local human exposure to the copper sulfate.

Westbrook Inc. is one private local business that uses copper sulfate on a regular basis. This ranch grows lilies and also raises cattle. The owner admits to the use of copper sulfate. This petition would demand the release of spray records with regard to this business due to observers who have come forward to state their concern about the frequency of the spraying, and its impact to the residents in the area. The petition would demand that state and local agencies conduct an investigation of Westbrook Inc. and other agriculture businesses in the local area.

Rural residents, farm workers, and their families should not be subjected to activities by private business owners that result in illness, loss of property, fear, or emergency trips to doctors and hospitals. It is a basic human right to have an environment that provides healthy food and a natural state of health and well-being. The petition will demand an investigation with regard to whether or not general safety has been compromised, and whether or not local, state, or federal regulations or laws have been broken.

Thank You,