



CENTER ON RACE, POVERTY & THE ENVIRONMENT
1302 JEFFERSON STREET, SUITE 2, DELANO, CA 93215

Pesticide Protection Zones: Madera County ***Protect the Health & Safety of our Communities***

Madera County among the highest pesticide use in the U.S.

- Madera County used 11,236,974 million pounds of pesticides in 2005 — the fifth highest use of any county in California. (according to California Department of Pesticide Regulation data)
- Pesticides are the fourth biggest cause of air pollution or “smog” in the San Joaquin Valley— an area that is one of the most polluted air basins in the nation and leads the state in rates of childhood asthma.
- Studies link pesticide exposure to learning disorders on children.

Drifting pesticides can cause serious health problems, especially for children.

- One third of the pesticides used in California are capable of causing immediate poisoning (nausea, vomiting, rashes etc.), cancer, Parkinson’s disease, birth defects, sterility, neurotoxicity, and/or damage to developing children. Pesticides can aggravate asthma and other respiratory problems.
- Pesticides pose a ***greater health risk for children*** than adults because their bodies and brains are still developing. Exposure to pesticides during periods of development may have permanent, irreversible effects.
- Over 90% of pesticides used in California drift easily from where they are applied. In a recent survey, City of Lindsay residents report that ***pesticides drift into their homes***. A 2005-2006 survey of Tulare County residents showed that 41% of respondents had been *drifted on* by pesticides; 80% of respondents said they did not know who to report pesticide exposure to.

Madera County’s schools are located very close to where pesticides are applied. We need better Protection Zones to protect our communities’ and children’s health.

- A law passed in 2001 (AB 947) allows County Agricultural Commissioners to regulate pesticide applications near schools. ***AB 947 it is not being implemented*** to protect schools in Madera County.
- We need to create more space between pesticide applications and where people live, work and play (including schools, residences, businesses, day care centers, labor camps, hospitals, health clinics, nursing homes and fields being tended by workers, as well as environmentally protected areas (such as wildlife preserves).



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- Urge Madera County authorities to take immediate action to protect our children by implementing AB 947 and make a strong protection (buffer) zone around schools, in addition to where we live, work and play to protect the health of all communities in **Madera County**.

For More Information Contact:

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