



# Government News / Business

EPA is proposing new federal standards to protect agricultural workers from pesticides, in addition to safety precautions now required on container labels. The proposed standards include: barring all persons but applicators from a field being treated; barring entry to the field for 12 hours after treatment unless the worker is wearing protective clothing (48 hours in the case of 13 listed pesticides); and various restrictions on preharvest operations in a treated field.

A U. S. Forest Service plan to defoliate some 2½-square miles of national forest lands in Wisconsin has encountered strong opposition from local environmental groups. The Forest Service plans to spray 32 areas with 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T to kill scrub oak and other broadleaf trees that are depriving red pines of light they need to grow. Forest officials say there is legitimate concern over effects of the chemicals, but applicators will be following standards even more strict than those set by EPA. The pesticides have been used more than 20 years as vegetation control for highways, railroads and industrial applications.

The Federal Energy Office has issued new rules on industry exclusions from petroleum allocation. Regulations apply primarily to fuel oil consumers but could be applied to other petroleum products should another shortage situation arise. Ornamental shrub and tree services is the only category excluded from the regulations under the new listing. This classification is defined as: "Establishments primarily engaged in performing a variety of ornamental shrub and tree services." It includes arborists services, ornamental bush and tree planting, pruning, bracing, spraying, surgery, tree trimming for public utility lines and utility line tree trimming services.

EPA's Office of Pesticides has retained CONSAD Research Corporation, Pittsburgh, Pa., to study and determine the extent of urban pesticides runoff. CONSAD plans to describe the use and time of use of pesticides in urban areas and the extent of runoff; evaluate the direct and indirect impact on the environment resulting from urban pesticides runoff with emphasis on the pathways to the aquatic environment; and recommend systems which will control the subsequent loss of properly applied pesticides.

OSHA boss, John H. Stender, citing U. S. Public Health Service statistics, said the death rate from occupational diseases--100,000 per year--is seven times higher than the rate of on-the-job accidents. He said OSHA and its research arm, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, have started a \$3.5 million crash program to develop complete standards for 400 of the most toxic substances. U. S. Department of Labor also says it will assist states operating federally-approved job safety and health programs in investigating catastrophic and other unusual accidents.

Regulations to administer experimental use permits have been proposed by EPA for unregistered pesticides or pesticides with restricted registration. The regulations are designed to allow limited use of a pesticide which may provide substantial pest control benefits, while generating data on the pesticide's effects on the environment.