



# Environmental Health News & Views

Winter 2003, Issue 5

Newsletter of the Illinois Department of Public Health • Division of Environmental Health  
*Creating a link between state and local environmental health professionals.*

Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor • John R. Lumpkin, M.D., M.P.H., Director

## Focus: Pest and Vector Control Section

The Pest and Vector Control Section is made up of two programs: the Structural Pest Control Program, managed by Fred Riecks, and the Vector Control and Surveillance Program managed by Linn Haramis, Ph. D.

### Structural Pest Control Program

Fred Riecks administers the Division of Environmental Health's Structural Pest Control Program, with the assistance of Marilyn Anders who handles the licensing and certification component of the program. Mr. Riecks develops amendments to the laws and codes and establishes policies. He also monitors the work of inspectors in the six regional offices. The regional staff inspect licensed or registered structural pest control businesses, conduct field evaluations of technicians to determine whether they properly use pesticides, and investigate the alleged misuse of pesticides. In addition, regional staff inspect retail facilities to determine if pesticides are registered, and perform inspections for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Staff are available to give presentations on safe pesticide use. Please feel free to contact the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) regional office in your area to discuss any pest control or pesticide-related activities.

Regional staff and phone numbers:

#### Rockford region

- Craig Loudat  
815-987-7511  
[cloudat@idph.state.il.us](mailto:cloudat@idph.state.il.us)

#### Peoria region

- Julie Smith  
309-693-5086  
[jsmith@idph.state.il.us](mailto:jsmith@idph.state.il.us)

- Jack Swanson  
309-693-5384  
[jswanso@idph.state.il.us](mailto:jswanso@idph.state.il.us)

#### Edwardsville region

- Cynthia Jones  
618-656-6680  
[cjones1@idph.state.il.us](mailto:cjones1@idph.state.il.us)

- Robert Winning  
618-656-6680  
[rwinning@idph.state.il.us](mailto:rwinning@idph.state.il.us)

#### Marion region

- Larry Dudley  
618-993-7010  
[ldudley@idph.state.il.us](mailto:ldudley@idph.state.il.us)

- Gary Patschke  
618-993-7010  
[gpatschk@idph.state.il.us](mailto:gpatschk@idph.state.il.us)

#### Champaign region

- Randy Markillie  
217-278-5900  
[rmarkallie@idph.state.il.us](mailto:rmarkallie@idph.state.il.us)

- Cary Ware  
217-278-5900  
[cware@idph.state.il.us](mailto:cware@idph.state.il.us)

#### West Chicago region

- Emanuel Wilder  
630-293-6800  
[ewilder@idph.state.il.us](mailto:ewilder@idph.state.il.us)

### Farewell



I am taking this opportunity to inform everyone who may not have already heard that I retired at the end of last year. I've had a long and rewarding career of nearly 35 years with the Illinois Department of Public Health. And, I've had the privilege of serving as chief of the Division of Environmental Health for the last 21 years.

Over the years, I've enjoyed great support for environmental programs especially from Dr. Lumpkin. I've also had the privilege of working with many very dedicated staff including the regional engineers/supervisors, section chiefs and other central office and regional staff. And, I've worked with many local health department administrators, directors of environmental health and their staffs, and have appreciated all of their conscientious efforts to protect the public's health.

The decades have brought numerous changes in focus as emerging issues such as asbestos, groundwater protection, toxins, mold and now West Nile virus come to the forefront of our activities. One thing is certain; there will always be new and difficult environmental health challenges for this division and its counterparts in local health departments to address. Despite our occasional differences over approaches to issues, I've always been impressed by the way we pull together when new threats to the public's health emerge. I'm confident that will continue to be the case.

So, that's it for me. Good luck with all of your future endeavors and take pride in the important work you do.

Clinton C. Mudgett, Former Chief  
Division of Environmental Health

# Environmental Health News & Views

## Law and Order

Pesticide regulation in Illinois is divided among three state agencies, the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDA), the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and IDPH. IDA is the lead agency for administration of the Illinois Pesticide Act (IPA), 415 ILCS 60/1 et seq., which regulates applicators who use pesticides in farming, lawn care, nursery, mosquito control and other agriculturally oriented areas. IDA also registers all pesticides for sale and use within the state. Section 3 of the IPA delegates some of the authority for pesticide regulation to IDPH and IEPA. A copy of the IPA may be found at [www.legis.state.il.us/ilcs/ch415/ch415act60.htm](http://www.legis.state.il.us/ilcs/ch415/ch415act60.htm). Questions regarding the use or sale of pesticides covered by the IPA may be referred to IDA's Division of Environmental Programs in Springfield at 217-785-2427.

IEPA is responsible for regulating the sites where pesticides (e.g., special/hazardous wastes) can be placed. The agency also investigates spills through its emergency response activities.

Under the Structural Pest Control Act (SPCA), 225 ILCS 235/1 et seq., IDPH licenses companies to perform structural pest control services for hire (e.g., Orkin, Terminix, etc.), registers non-commercial businesses (food plants, wood treatment plants, housing authorities, etc.) that use restricted-use pesticides within the confines of their property on a not-for-hire basis by in-house certified technicians and certifies individuals employed by commercial or non-commercial businesses to use general and restricted use pesticides. The SPCA also requires public school districts to implement integrated pest management (IPM) practices whenever economically feasible. A copy of the SPCA may be found at [www.legis.state.il.us/ilcs/ch225/ch225act235.htm](http://www.legis.state.il.us/ilcs/ch225/ch225act235.htm), while a copy of the Structural Pest Control Code may be found at [www.idph.state.il.us/rulesregs/77-0830.htm](http://www.idph.state.il.us/rulesregs/77-0830.htm). Questions regarding the license and certification requirements or status of individuals under the SPCA may be referred to the Structural Pest Control Program staff in the appropriate IDPH regional office, or in Springfield at 217-782-5830.

## IPM in Schools

Under the SPCA, public schools are required to implement integrated pest management (IPM) practices that are consistent with the guidelines established by IDPH. This requirement applies to all public schools that are financially capable of implementing an IPM program. If a school is not financially able to implement an IPM program consistent with the guidelines, the district must file a letter with IDPH

along with financial data that illustrate the inability to comply with the requirements. To date, only seven school districts have notified IDPH that they cannot afford to implement an IPM program consistent with the established guidelines.

The IPM guidelines are contained in two documents, *Integrated Management of Structural Pests in Schools* and *A Practical Guide to Management of Common Pests in Schools*. Both are available in hard copy or on the Department's Web site at [www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/entpestfshts.htm](http://www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/entpestfshts.htm).

## What is IPM Anyway???

IPM is the use of various methods to reduce pest infestations to an acceptable level. It involves the following:

- identification of pests and their natural enemies;
- establishment of an ongoing monitoring and record-keeping program to assess pest problems;
- establishment of pest tolerance thresholds;
- prevention of pest problems via improved sanitation, proper waste management, creation of physical barriers and reduction of pest habitats;
- reliance on non-toxic pest management methods; and
- judicious use of least harmful pesticides when necessary.

Regardless of whether or not a school district implements an IPM program, all schools are required to notify parents, guardians and employees at least two business days prior to the application of any pesticide that is not an insecticide or rodenticide bait, disinfectant, sanitizer or deodorizer. The law gives the district the option of creating a registry of parents, guardians and employees for notification purposes. In the absence of a registry, all parents, guardians and employees must be notified by the school. Scheduled routine spraying is not consistent with an IPM program as defined in the act and guidelines.

## Urban Pesticide Initiative

### Methyl Parathion

IDPH has been conducting an Urban Pesticide Initiative (UPI) program in Illinois communities over the last several years to discourage the use of agricultural pesticides in residential and other indoor settings and to ensure that those hired to perform structural pest control are properly licensed by IDPH. The UPI program evolved in the aftermath of a 1997-1998 incident in Chicago where an unlicensed pest control operator used methyl parathion (MP), an extremely

# Environmental Health News & Views

hazardous agricultural insecticide, to treat indoor living areas in about 1,000 residences during the early-to-mid-1990s. That illegal activity resulted in 1,913 people having to undergo biological monitoring, 596 residences with MP detected above levels of concern, 550 residents relocated and 100 households remediated. This event required the attention of 11 local, state and federal agencies and cost in excess of \$10 million to rectify. The applicator was convicted and spent two years in a federal prison.

IDPH meets with community officials and groups to discuss the UPI program, shares information regarding the past use of agricultural pesticides in indoor settings and seeks assistance in monitoring pest control activities in facilities that are locally regulated. With the cooperation of local health departments, IDPH has been able to investigate and refer a number of unlicensed pest control services and Miraculous Insecticide Chalk-related activities to a local state's attorney for successful prosecution. Local health departments also have assisted IDPH in the monitoring of pest control activities by notifying IDPH of the name of restaurants or other entities where pest control services have taken place and the name and address of its pest control company.

## Miraculous Insecticide Chalk



Since the beginning of the UPI program, IDPH has also focused on identifying unregistered pesticides that are used in structural settings. One such product is

Miraculous Insecticide Chalk (MIC), which has been found in dollar stores, beauty supply stores, flea markets and Asian restaurants in the northern part of the state. MIC comes from China and can resemble ordinary blackboard chalk, therefore attracting young children to play with it.

This chalk has been found to contain two synthetic pyrethroid insecticides: cypermethrin and/or deltamethrin, and is usually found in colorful orange and yellow boxes with black descriptions. Based upon data received from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), there were 668 MIC poisonings nationwide between 1992 and 1997, and nine poisonings of Illinois children between 1998 and 1999. This product affects the central nervous system. Overexposure in children can lead to serious health effects such as vomiting, stomach pains, convulsions, tremors, coma and sometimes death due to respiratory failure. The cardboard box may also contain lead. For more information, contact Fred Riecks at 217-782-5830 or visit the Departments Web site at [www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/entpestfshts.htm](http://www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/entpestfshts.htm).

## Vector Control and Surveillance

To prevent human disease and discomfort caused by vectors, the Division of Environmental Health's Vector Control and Surveillance Program, headed by Linn Haramis, Ph. D., provides technical information to local health departments, municipal governments, mosquito abatement programs and the public on vector monitoring and control. Some of the program activities include the following:

- Reducing the number of artificial containers and used tire piles that serve as breeding sites for mosquitoes;
- Collecting blood samples from birds and collecting mosquitoes to detect the presence of mosquito-borne diseases;
- Training of local health department personnel in surveillance and control of vectors of disease and pests of public health significance; and
- Providing grant money to local health departments to encourage the development of vector control programs.

## What's all the buzz about West Nile virus?

By now, everyone has heard about West Nile virus (WNV). Numerous phone calls and e-mails were being answered daily in the Division of Environmental Health about WNV, dead birds and mosquitoes during the height of the outbreak. The latest information about WNV can be found on the IDPH Web site at [www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/wnv.htm](http://www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/wnv.htm).

There have been a total of 877 human cases, including 62 deaths, of West Nile virus illness in Illinois. This number could increase. Even though Illinois has only 4 percent of the nation's population, it had 21 percent of the WNV cases this year. Surveillance of birds, mosquitoes and horses have found WNV throughout the state. To date, 513 sampled birds, 528 samples mosquito batches and 1,084 horses have been found to have WNV.

Mild symptoms of WNV include fever, headache and body ache. More severe symptoms include headache, high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, convulsions, muscle weakness, paralysis and, rarely, death. Individuals at greatest risk from WNV are those over 50 years of age.

## Protect Your Home Against Mosquitoes Poster



Each local health department should have received copies of the *Protect Your Home Against Mosquitoes* poster and flyer. If you have not received your copies or need additional copies, please contact Linn Haramis.

# Environmental Health News & Views

## How do we stack up?

Wondering what the other states' WNV numbers look like? Visit the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention Web site at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) for the latest information.

## Hot off the presses

The SPC and Vector Control programs have some new publications. Nearly all of the section's publications are available on the Department's Web site:

[www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/entpestfshts.htm](http://www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/entpestfshts.htm).

- *Mosquitoes and Encephalitis*
- *Facts About Mosquito Control and West Nile Virus* (available in hard copy only)
- *Surveillance and Response Procedures for Mosquito-borne Arbovirus Emergencies*

If you would like to have copies of these or any other Pest/Vector Control educational materials, please contact Marilyn Anders at 217-782-5830.

## Public service announcements

IDPH has developed some interesting public service announcements to help people understand the importance of preventing mosquito bites and mosquito breeding. To view and hear these announcements, go to this Web site: [www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/wnvgenpublic.htm](http://www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/wnvgenpublic.htm).

## Hang in There!

The next edition of *Environmental Health News & Views* will focus on emerging topics in the Division of Environmental Health!



Printed by Authority of the State of Illinois  
P.O. #533521 300 2/03

535 W. Jefferson St. • Springfield, IL 62761  
Division of Environmental Health