



Cropland/Agri-business/Pesticides. Applicators using fumigants should be aware of new requirements in 2011.

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EPA mandates new safety measures throughout late 2010 – 2011 for applicators using many fumigants. These safety measures are designed to protect bystanders, workers and applicators from adverse effects commonly reported. Applicators using *aluminum/magnesium phosphide fumigants and/or soil fumigants* should be aware of these recent mitigation measures.

Soil Fumigations. Applicators using methyl bromide, chloropicrin, dazomet, metam sodium, and metam potassium will be required to follow new regulations in 2011. According to the new requirements, applicators:

- must complete a written, site-specific fumigant management plan prior to fumigation
- must use buffer zones around treated fields. Buffers can be adjusted according to other good management practices (GMA's) that reduce risk to bystanders.
- must follow new posting requirements which inform bystanders and field workers about the location and timing of fumigations and buffer zones.
- must monitor buffer zone perimeters or provide emergency response information directly to neighbors.

Products registrants must also follow many new requirements as indicated by EPA. Registrants:

- must provide first responders with fumigant-specific safety information and training.
- must conduct outreach programs to educate community members about soil fumigants, buffer zones, how to recognize early signs of fumigant exposure, and how to respond appropriately in case of an accident.
- must develop training for fumigation handlers and workers to enhance their knowledge and skills and to promote product stewardship.
- along with EPA must classify all soil fumigants as 'Restricted Use' to ensure only specially trained individuals can apply and oversee fumigant operations.

See EPA Fact Sheet at [EPA Fact Sheet](#) or your pesticide product label for more information. EPA has many helpful soil fumigation tools available at http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/reregistration/soil_fumigants/. This includes many soil fumigant management plan templates, labels, and fact sheets.

****These new requirements do not include the fumigant active ingredient '1,3-dichloropropene'. This active ingredient is used for managing nematode infestations in many areas of Montana. This active ingredient may be subject to these new requirements after review in 2013.***

Aluminum and Magnesium Phosphide. In April 2010, EPA announced future changes to applicators using products with the active ingredients 'aluminum' or 'magnesium phosphide'. This includes such products as Fumitoxin, Phostoxin, Fumi-Strip, Fumi-cel, Magtoxin Granules, Fumex, Detaphos, Gastoxin, Phosfume, and Weevil-cide. All product labels should now be updated to include the following requirements:

- Use is strictly prohibited around all residential areas, including single and multi-family residential properties, nursing homes, schools (except athletic fields), day care facilities, and hospitals.
- Products must only be used outdoors for control of burrowing pests, and are for use only on agricultural areas, orchards, non-crop areas (such as pasture or rangeland), golf courses, athletic fields, park and recreation areas, cemeteries, airports, rights-of-way, earthen dams, and other non-residential institutional or industrial sites.
- Buffer zones around non-residential buildings have been increased from 15 to 100 feet.
- Signs must be posted at entrances to treated athletic fields, parks or any site frequented by people. Sign must say DANGER/PELIGRO and contain the words DO NOT ENTER/NO ENTRE, FIELD NOT FOR USE. Sign must also contain the name and EPA registration number of the fumigant and a 24 hr. emergency number. Signs may be removed 2 days after treatment.
- Fumigant Management Plans (FMP's) must be written before all applications of phosphine products.

Fumigant Management Plans may include new requirements regarding the monitoring of adjacent buildings, mandatory training of fumigation personnel, mandatory monitoring of gas concentrations and/or wearing full personal protective equipment. The MSU Extension Pesticide Education Program in cooperation with the Montana Department of Agriculture will offer 3 fumigation programs which address these new requirements. The target audience will be private or commercial / government applicators who apply fumigants to burrows or structures to manage pests. Courses will be offered in Helena on March 15th, Billings on March 16th, and Miles City on March 17th. Program details will be available and advertised in upcoming weeks on the MSU Pesticide Education website at www.pesticides.montana.edu by selecting 'Private Applicator Program'.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: More information regarding aluminum and magnesium phosphide can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/reregistration/alphosphide/aluminum-magnsm-phos-fs.html> or see the soil fumigation fact sheet at http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/reregistration/soil_fumigants/factsheets/sfm-implementation-sched.pdf. If you have questions regarding this article contact the MSU Pesticide Education program (Cecil Tharp, Pesticide Education Specialist, 406-994-5067, ctharp@montana.edu).