

## Soil Fumigant Mitigation Factsheet:

# Posting Requirements for Buffer Zones

EPA is requiring important new safety measures for soil fumigant pesticides to increase protections for agricultural workers and bystanders -- people who live, work, or otherwise spend time near fields that are fumigated. These measures are for the soil fumigants chloropicrin, dazomet, metam sodium/potassium, and methyl bromide.

This fact sheet summarizes new requirements to protect fumigant handlers and other workers from fumigant exposures. The new Posting Requirements for Buffer Zones are being implemented during the second of two phases. When new Phase 2 fumigant labels appear in the market place in late 2012, fumigant users will need to comply with these new requirements.

### ***New Requirements for Posting Buffer Zones***

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Current soil fumigant labels require treated areas to be posted, and handlers are required to wear specific personal protective equipment when they are in a treated area. For buffer zones to be effective, bystanders need to be informed of the location of the buffer to ensure they do not enter areas designated as part of the buffer zone. The perimeter of the fumigant buffer zones must be posted as described below.

Posting of a buffer zone is required unless there is a physical barrier that prevents bystander access to the buffer zone.

### ***Additional Posting Requirements***

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##### **Buffer zone posting signs must:**

- Be placed at all usual points of entry and along likely routes of approach from areas where people who are not under the land owner's control may approach the buffer zone.
  - Some examples of points of entry include, but are not limited to, roadways, sidewalks, paths, and bike trails.
  - Some examples of likely routes of approach are the area between a buffer zone and a roadway, or the area between a buffer zone and a housing development.
- The printed side of the sign must face away from the treated area toward areas from which people could approach.
- Signs must remain legible the entire posting period.
- Signs must be posted no sooner than 24 hours before the start of the application and remain posted until the buffer zone period has expired.
- Signs must be removed within three days after the end of the buffer zone period.

**Additional Posting Requirements, continued**

**Contents of Signs**

**Exception:** If multiple contiguous blocks are fumigated within a 14-day period, the entire periphery of the contiguous blocks' buffer zones may be posted. Buffer zone signs must be posted no sooner than 24 hours prior to the start of the first application. The signs must remain posted until the last buffer zone period expires and signs must be removed within three days after the buffer zone period for the last block has expired.

**Contents of Signs**

Signs must meet the general standards outlined in the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) for sign size, text size and legibility (see 40 CFR §170.120). Registrants must provide generic buffer zone posting signs that meet these criteria at points of sale for applicators to use.

Current soil fumigant labels require treated areas to be posted, and handlers are required to wear specific personal protective equipment when they are in a treated area.

**Buffer Zone Sign**

The **buffer zone** sign must include the following:

- Do not walk symbol
- "DO NOT ENTER/NO ENTREE,"
- "[Name of fumigant] [Name of product] Fumigant BUFFER ZONE,"
- Contact information for the certified applicator in charge of the fumigation



## Treated Area Sign

The **treated area sign** (currently required for fumigants) must state the following:

- Skull and crossbones symbol
- "DANGER/PELIGRO,"
- "Area under fumigation, DO NOT ENTER/NO ENTRE,"
- "[*Name of fumigant*] Fumigant in USE,"
- Date and time of fumigation,
- Date and time entry restricted period is over
- Name of the product
- Name, address, and telephone number of the certified applicator in charge of the fumigation.

# DANGER/PELIGRO



AREA UNDER FUMIGATION

\_\_\_\_\_ FUMIGANT IN USE

START DATE/TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

END DATE/TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

PRODUCT: \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICATOR CONTACT INFORMATION:

\_\_\_\_\_

# DO NOT ENTER/NO ENTRE

For additional information, please see EPA's Soil Fumigant Toolbox, [www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/reregistration/soil\\_fumigants/](http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/reregistration/soil_fumigants/).