

Safety Note #133

SAFE ENTRY ONTO PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL PROPERTIES

Introduction

The purpose of this Safety Note is to provide safe procedures for entering private agricultural properties and assist ANR employees in achieving compliance with the following sections of Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR); 6771 (Requirements for Early Entry Fieldworkers), 6772 (Restricted Entry Intervals), and 6776 (Field Postings).

Scope:

This Safety Note is intended for those employees (and associated supervisors) that conduct work on private agricultural properties

Procedure:

When working on private agricultural properties, there are potential risks that many unknown hazards may be introduced into the working environment that may not be encountered at other University of California properties where work usually takes place. To reduce the potential risks to those ANR employees that will be working on private agricultural properties the following steps should be taken.

1. **Contact.** 24 hours prior to ANR employees entering onto private property the advisor or project leader for the activity being conducted should contact the owner/cooperator and ask at least the following questions:
 - a. *Has the field been treated with any pesticides or chemicals in the past 30 days?*
 - b. *What is / was the restricted entry interval time(s)?*
 - c. *Has the field been recently irrigated and for how long?*
 - d. *Are there any particular property or equipment hazards that require special notification, training, and/or warning before entering the property?*

(If you have any suspicions or believe that there may be a hazard ask additional questions to follow up)
2. **Plan.** Prior to leaving to go to the property, meet with all employees who will be entering the property and discuss the information that was provided by the owner/cooperator. Also reinforce the following steps and that if there is any suspicion of a hazard they should leave the field immediately and report the incident to the supervisor.
3. **Survey.** When the employees arrive at the property, they should treat it as if it was a restricted access property and survey access points and as much of the perimeter as possible to insure there are no warning signs directing them not to enter.
4. **Check In.** If possible the employees should check in with the owner of the field and ensure that the field is safe from any hazards.
5. **Act.** If during their work the employees become ill or believe that there is a hazard they need to leave the area and immediately contact their supervisor.

In the unlikely event of a pesticide exposure, the employee needs to seek immediate medical attention (see Safety Note #123). Also, in the event of a potential pesticide exposure, it is recommended that the supervisor/advisor give a courtesy notification to the local Agricultural Commissioner that has jurisdiction over the area of the incident.

