Levels of a cancer-causing pesticide have spiked in Shafter this year

The levels of 1,3 Dichloropropene (1,3 D, or Telone) are far higher than levels measured in 1990 that led to a five-year ban.

What is 1,3 D?

1,3 D (Telone) is listed by the state as a cancer-causing fumigant pesticide. It is known to cause lung cancer in lab animals.

What happened?

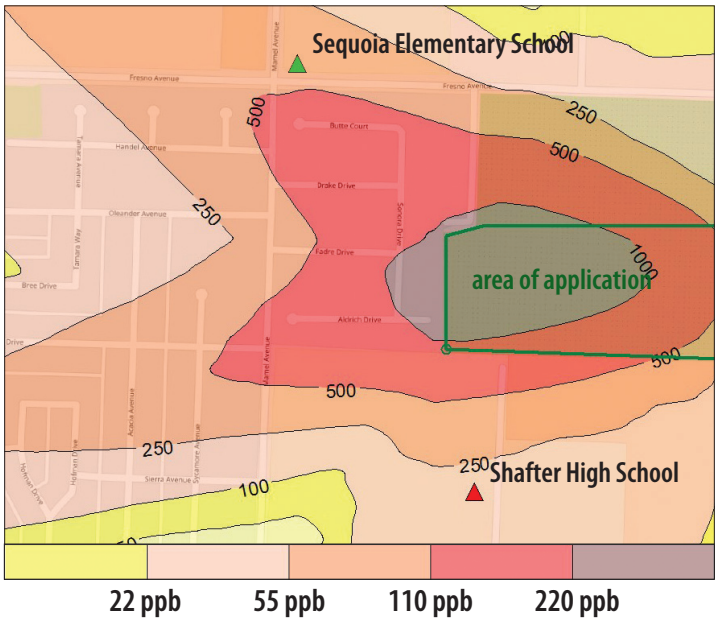
A very high air level of the pesticide 1,3 D was measured at Shafter High School on January 21, 2018. The measured level of 50.5 parts per billion (ppb) is the highest level of this pesticide ever measured in the state.

How did this happen?

The state thinks the high air level came from a large application that wasn't covered by a tarp, about 650 feet north of the school.

What neighborhoods were affected?

The high levels were measured at the state air monitoring site at Shafter High School, located at Tulare Avenue and Mannel Avenue. However, the state Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) estimates levels were even higher at Sequoia Elementary School (located at the corner of Fresno Avenue and Mannel Avenue) and in the neighborhood between the two schools (including the Butte Court, Sonoma Drive and Aldrich Drive area), because the wind was blowing mainly to the west in that area. Use of 1,3 D is heaviest upwind (east and northeast) of Shafter.



Air levels shown in map in $\mu g/m^3$; 1 $\mu g/m^3$ = 0.22 ppb
Source: CDPR

To learn more about what you can do to help end use of this pesticide, contact:

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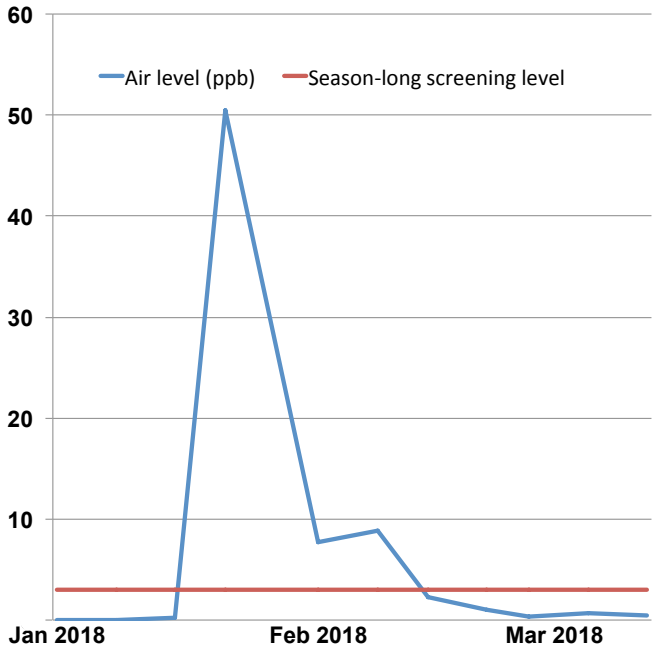
1,3 D use was previously banned for much less

When a level of 30 ppb of 1,3 D was measured in Merced County in 1990, use of this pesticide ended for five years. The state allowed it back in 1995 under pressure from the manufacturer, Dow.

Shafter High School 1,3 D Air Levels (ppb) January–March 2018



Weekly monitoring has continued but more recent results aren't available yet.

Despite the significantly (68%) higher reading of 50.5 ppb in Shafter in January 2018, this time DPR has failed to stop use.

The average season-long air level from January to March was 5.6 ppb. This is almost twice the season-long screening level of 3 ppb set to prevent damage to the lining of the nose.

Air levels exceed cancer concern level

DPR has been monitoring pesticide air levels at Shafter High School since 2011. Since then, 1,3 D has repeatedly been found at levels of cancer risk concern.

So what has DPR done about it?

In 2016, DPR relaxed the cancer risk level for 1,3 D (Telone) and allowed growers to start using 50% more.

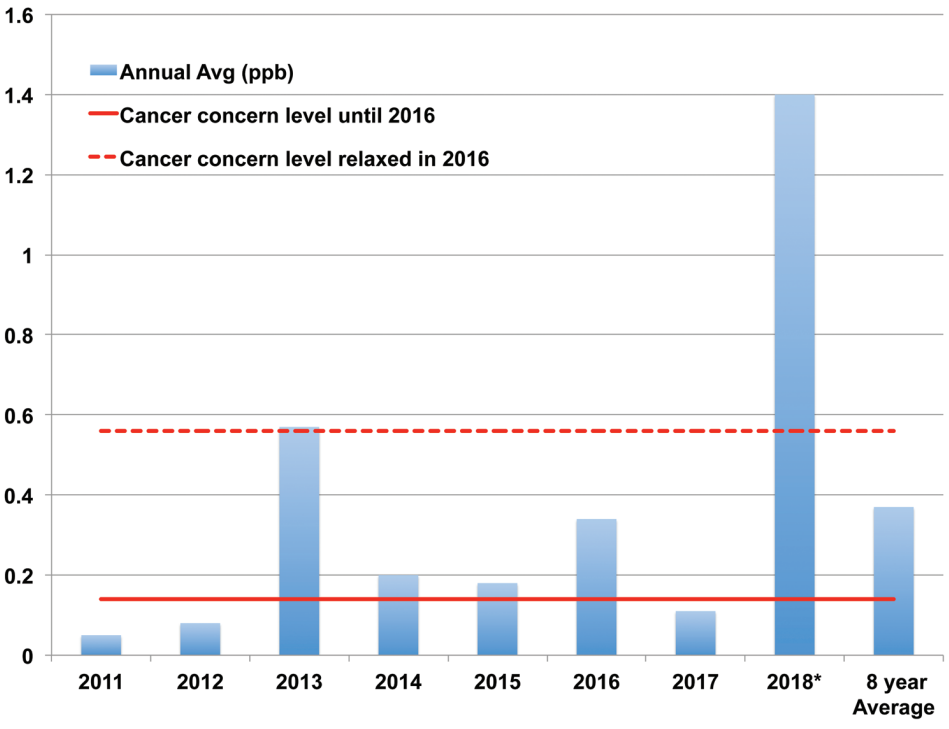
What can and should be done?

The state should:

- Ban this air-contaminating, cancer-causing pesticide completely
- Immediately ban untarped applications
- Immediately ban all applications in January and any other times when the air is stagnant.

Ending use will greatly reduce the health hazard.

Shafter High School 1,3 D Air Levels (ppb) Annual Averages



The level of concern for cancer risk used by DPR was 0.14 ppb (averaged over a lifetime) until October 2016 when it was relaxed four-fold to 0.56 ppb. Another state agency, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, has concluded that the level of concern for children should be 0.1 ppb.

* Estimated from January to March levels. Levels for 2018 will likely be higher.

CPR Californians For Pesticide Reform