

New Training Topics for Workers and Handlers and How to Tackle Them.

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In January 2016, U.S. EPA published the revised Agricultural Worker Protection Standard (WPS) to increase protections for agricultural workers (those who perform hand-labor tasks in pesticide-treated areas, such as harvesting, thinning, pruning) and pesticide handlers (those who mix, load, and apply pesticides) from pesticide exposure when working in farms, forests, nurseries, and greenhouses. The changes are significant to California agriculture, and the implementation timeline is aggressive. This presentation focuses on changes to the pesticide safety training required for agricultural workers and handlers, and provides resources to help trainers comply with these new regulations. The regulatory changes that will impact pesticide safety training include: annual pesticide safety training for all 417,000 fieldworkers in California (previously, training was required once every 5 years); mandatory recordkeeping for all fieldworker pesticide safety training (previously there was no recordkeeping requirement for fieldworkers), and additional training topics for fieldworkers and handlers. The training resources presented include: the UC IPM Train-the-Trainer program (www.ipm.ucanr.edu); The UC IPM Fieldworker Training Kit; the Pesticide Educational Resources Collaborative (pesticideresources.org), and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/>). The presentation includes a hands-on demonstration of how to teach one of the training topics in the field using the Fieldworker Training Kit.