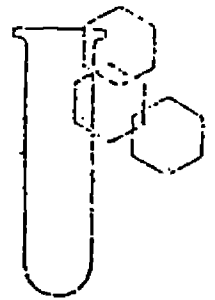


CCF Guide

ENVIRONMENTAL & TOXIC CHEMICAL NEWS



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DIOXIN BLOOD LEVELS FOUND AT ORTHOCHLOROPHENOL SPILL SITE IN STURGEON, MO.

Dioxin blood levels of 31 p.p.t., and 7 p.p.t., have been found in samples taken from workers exposed to orthochlorophenol at a spill site in Sturgeon, Mo. (See Feb. 14, Page 22).

This is the first time blood levels of dioxins have been found, the Environmental Protection Agency stated last week.

The agency said a mixture of dioxins were found and that the specific dioxins in it had not yet been identified. EPA noted that it would attempt to identify the dioxins and to determine the rate at which they were removed from the body.

In the April 13 public statement, EPA observed that preliminary results of checks on workers exposed after the spill included: Measurable but toxicologically insignificant levels of orthochlorophenol were found in the urine of seven of twelve workers; phenol, another spill material, was not found in any samples; and the blood samples in which dioxins were found were taken from three workers "who reported skin burns or rashes resulting from the spilled material."

The statement noted, "Certain dioxins are known to be associated with several chronic health effects including cancer. Therefore, any level of exposure to these chemicals carries some health risk. However, based upon knowledge of dioxin content of the spill material and comparisons with urine values of o-chlorophenol, it is apparent that these very low levels leave little reason to be concerned about any serious health effects to the Sturgeon, Missouri community" (See April 11, Pages 7, 11, 21, 23, 25, and 26).

The agency added that checks to confirm the preliminary measurements were to be ready about May 15.

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DIAZINON REGISTERED FOR FIRE ANT CONTROL; IMIDAN LIKELY TO BE; EUP ISSUED

In an apparent effort to try to soften the impact of its likely decision to deny use of ferriemicide (See April 4, Page 17), the Environmental Protection Agency has registered diazinon for fire ant control (mound treatment), and is expected to register imidan for fire ants soon. And, the agency has issued a Section 5 experimental use permit (EUP) for an American Cyanamid Co. insecticide. (See April 4, Page 17)