

Pesticides and You

News from the National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides (NCAMP)

One in a Series of NCAMP "How-To's"

Developing an Incident Data Base

• Why Do We Need an Incident Data Base?

There is currently no national system for collecting information on pesticide incidents, and yet this type of reporting can tell us whether the state and federal regulatory system is operating effectively. Only nine states have some sort of mandatory reporting, while the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) discontinued its Pesticide Incident Monitoring System (PIMS) in 1981 (although the Agency says that reports are still received by its Pesticide Incident Officer in the Office of Pesticide Programs). Pesticide incidents can be used to affect public policy. **You** can help build this

information bank with your experience and those of others you know.

• What Kind of Data Should You Provide?

Your name, address, telephone number, concise description of your experience (give date, chemicals involved, if known, any effects suffered and the current status as well as any efforts to resolve the situation or prevent it from reoccurring), medical diagnosis, laboratory test information, local, state, and federal agencies contacted, and others contacted. The incident report does not have to include an adverse health effect or property damage but can report on misuse incidents, pesticide drift and

other situations.

• Where Should the Information Be Sent?

National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides (NCAMP), 530 7th St., S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003.

• How Will This Information Be Used?

NCAMP will serve as a central repository for this incident data base and make it readily available to local member organizations that are working in their state and community to improve public protection from pesticides and promote alternatives. (If you do not want your name and address distributed with your incident report, please indicate this; however, know that anonymity will undermine the power of the system.)