

# PPDC Public Health Workgroup

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# Workgroup Objective

“...to develop recommendations to the PPDC to help the Office of Pesticide Programs to be able to respond more effectively during an emergency, particularly when it comes to interactions with other agencies and communication materials about pesticides.”

# Meeting of October 30, 2018

- Change of leadership
- Developed an outline for contents of the formal recommendations to the PPDC
- Four Topics were completed
  - OPP Roles and Responsibilities
  - Identify and Engage Stakeholders
  - Pesticides, IPM and Other Control Tools
  - Communications
- One Remains
  - Technology, Innovation and Science

# OPP Roles and Responsibilities

- Sort out roles by crisis type, identify when EPA/OPP is lead or support
  - OPP is usually support player
- Address all players early on (including other EPA offices)
- EPA role in communicating with public, differentiating between other stakeholders
  - Plan would allow OPP to be proactive in participating and identifying areas that need pesticide input
- Post mortem analysis of response after an event happens

# Identify and Engage Stakeholders

- Broad, exhaustive list of types of stakeholders
  - Categorize by purpose (during crisis, identify stakeholders appropriate to different types of emergencies, how to include)
- Develop matrix of stakeholders and types of emergencies to help identify key areas/messages/etc. (use past emergencies as template to validate method)
  - Identify target audience in need of action or information
- Work with other federal agencies to promote a unified federal message on pesticides, usage, risks, benefits, etc.
  - How can OPP take the lead to ensure this?

# Pesticides, IPM and other control tools

- Adapt existing education materials on regulatory processes (Section 3 or 18, EUP, existing or new products) to specifically address public health pesticides
- Discuss the roles and options for using pesticides that are not registered
- Establish clear guidelines to announce a policy expedite applications for pests during an emergency
- Create materials for using IPM in the different types of emergencies and different pest needs, including antimicrobial pesticides
- Response should use the example of the viral emerging pathogens policy (for antimicrobial pesticides)

# Communications

- Actions and alerts for the public on any particular pest control tool that is being employed
- Materials to discuss the risks of tools vs. disease vs. doing nothing
- Papers on common issues during emergencies (e.g., ES, NEPA, pollinators, NPDES, organic farming)
- Consider developing a generic public health emergency response template for pesticide-related issues
- Clear, consistent message at the federal level for issues related to pesticides

# Conclusions and Next Steps

- Plan needed for when, not if, a crisis develops
- Proposed timeline aggressive, but achievable with strong commitment of workgroup
  - Workgroup plans to break into subgroups to address each topic more efficiently
- Recommendations to the full PPDC at the May meeting
- Vacancies