

NORTH TEXAS POISON CONTROL CENTER
PARKLAND MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
P.O. BOX 35926
DALLAS, TEXAS 75235-1032

RECEIVED

JAN 25 1994

DSHEFS

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

H. L. Lamm
T. Kurt
January 12, 1994

*Pls route this
to Dave Manning*

Docket Office Manager
Division of Standards, Development & Technology Transfer (DSDTT)
NIOSH
4776 Columbia Parkway
Cincinnati, OH 45226

Re: **Workers' Family Protection Act Notice in MMWR, Vol. 24, #48, Page 943**

Dear Docket Office Manager:

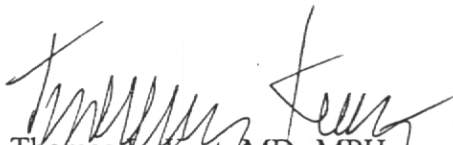
In the MMWR, you describe that on November 15, 1993 a request was published in the Federal Register, asking for information relevant to implementing the Workers' Family Protection Act. You asked for information regarding incidents of family poisonings or home contaminations by substances inadvertently carried home by workers on their clothing, equipment, or person.

I would like to alert you to the National Data System, which is a joint computerized epidemiologic effort of the American Association of Poison Control Centers and serves as a computerized data base for the 3 million, or so, calls nationwide each year to the participating certified regional poison centers. As such, it can serve as an immense resourceful data base for information concerning your requests.

As a person familiar with your director in Cincinnati, Dr. Fine, I would like to vouch for the credibility of this informational source, which can be facilitated through Dr. Krenzlock and Dr. Litovitz of the American Association of Poison Control Centers, with the data repository being at Dr. Litovitz's location.

If I can be of further service in providing this information, please let me know.

Sincerely,


Thomas E. Kurt, MD, MPH
Medical Toxicologist

TLK:at23

Enclosure

FEB 1 1994

Docket Office Manager
DSDTT

January 12, 1994
Page 2

- cc: Lena Day, R.N., B.S.
Manager
North Texas Poison Center
Parkland Memorial Hospital
Dallas, TX 75235
- cc: Larry Fine, M.D.
Mail Stop R-12
Robert Taft Lab, NIOSH
4776 Columbia Parkway
Cincinnati, OH 45226
- cc: Edward P. Krenzelok, PHARM D
Pittsburgh Poison Center
3705 5th Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
- cc: Toby Litovitz, M.D.
Georgetown University Hospital
3800 Reservoir Road, NW
Washington, DC 20007

Flood-Related Mortality — Continued

or swiftly moving flood waters. In this report, 75% (27/36) of the drownings that occurred during the summer and fall floods in Missouri were motor-vehicle-related.

The findings in this report underscore the importance of two strategies for preventing flood-related injuries and death. First, information about flood and post-flood hazards must be disseminated rapidly and widely to groups at increased risk for injury. For example, motorists should be warned not to drive through areas inundated by flash floods, not to enter swiftly moving water, and that only 2 feet of water can carry away most automobiles (7). In addition, recreational activities, such as wading or bicycling, in flooded areas should be discouraged. Second, hydrologic studies and hazard analyses should address potentially flood-prone tributaries. The hazard potential of such areas during flash floods should be identified, and appropriate warning signs should be posted. MDH is continuing surveillance of flood-related mortality to monitor circumstances of death.

References

1. CDC. Public health consequences of a flood disaster—Iowa, 1993. MMWR 1993;42:653-6.
2. CDC. Morbidity surveillance following the Midwest flood—Missouri, 1993. MMWR 1993; 42:797-8.
3. French JG. Floods. In: Gregg MB, ed. The public health consequences of disasters. Atlanta: US Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, CDC, 1989:39-49.
4. French JG, Ing R, Von Allmen S, Wood R. Mortality from flash floods: a review of National Weather Service reports, 1969-81. Public Health Rep 1983;98:584-8.
5. Duclos P, Vidonne O, Beuf P, Perray P, Stoebner A. Flash flood disaster—Nîmes, France, 1988. Eur J Epidemiol 1991;7:365-71.
6. Wintemute GJ, Kraus JF, Teret SP, Wright MA. Death resulting from motor vehicle immersions: the nature of the injuries, personal and environmental contributing factors, and potential interventions. Am J Public Health 1990;80:1068-70.
7. National Weather Service/American Red Cross/Federal Emergency Management Agency. Flash floods and floods...the awesome power!: a preparedness guide. Washington, DC: US Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service/American Red Cross, 1992; report no. NOAA/PA 92050, ARC 4493.

Notice to Readers

1-800-356-4674 X5

Workers' Family Protection Act

On November 15, 1993, CDC's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) published in the *Federal Register* * a request for existing information relevant to implementing the Workers' Family Protection Act[†]. NIOSH is requesting information on incidents of family poisonings or home contaminations by substances inadvertently carried home by workers on their clothing, equipment, or person and on regulations and methods for dealing with such incidents. Copies of the *Federal Register* announcement are available from the Docket Office Manager, Division of Standards Development and Technology Transfer (DSDTT), NIOSH; telephone (513) 533-8304. Additional information is available from the Deputy Director, DSDTT, NIOSH; telephone (513) 533-8302.

*58 FR 60202-60204.

†29 U.S.C. §671a.