Effective 12/1/2010, EPA will require the following relative to use of soil fumigants:

- Handlers must either stop work and leave the area or use air-purifying respirators if they experience sensory irritation (this does not apply to formulations with greater than 80% methyl bromide).
- For formulations with greater than 80% methyl bromide handlers must wear air-purifying respirators during handling activities.
- Air monitoring while handlers use respirators to ensure concentrations do not exceed the upper working limit of respirators.
- All handlers who will wear a respirator must be fit-tested, trained, and medically examined to ensure they do not have health problems such as a heart condition that could make use of a respirator dangerous.
- Respirator and cartridges must be available for each handler who will wear a respirator.

Source: http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/reregistration/soil_fumigants/#worker

Thanks to a grant from the NC Tobacco Trust Fund, medical clearance, respirator fit testing, and full face respirators with cartridges will be available at the NC Crop Protection School.

In order to receive services, here’s what you need to do:

**PRIOR TO THE NC CROP PROTECTION SCHOOL**

- Pre-register by contacting: Robin Tutor at 919.880.4225, tutorr@ecu.edu or Barb Gallagher at 910.567.7159, bgallagher@commwellhealth.org or Fred Wright fredw04@students.ecu.edu
- Sign up for a time during the NC Crop Protection School to complete blood pressure, lung function test, and respirator fit testing. (This testing will take approximately ½ hour.)
- Complete a medical history questionnaire (details on accessing questionnaire will be given at time of pre-registration.) Electronically completed questionnaires must be completed by November 30th. Paper questionnaires must be completed and returned by November 23rd.*
- Receive preliminary medical clearance based on physician review of your questionnaire.
Growers who wish to obtain medical clearance on their own and have only respirator fit testing at the NC Crop Protection School, must complete a medical evaluation by a physician or other licensed health care professional using a medical questionnaire or an initial medical examination that obtains the same information as the medical questionnaire (see attached questionnaire). While pulmonary function test & blood pressure are not required, both are recommended to ensure that there are no unforeseen medical issues as to why an individual may not be able to safely use a respirator.

A statement on physician’s letterhead or prescription pad that medical clearance has been obtained and for what type of respirator (i.e., full face air purifying, half face air purifying, powered air purifying, etc) will be required prior to fit testing. Any limitations to respirator wear (i.e., respiratory issue, heart condition, high blood pressure, etc) must also be stated.

Be sure to call ahead to schedule a time to complete respirator fit testing.

**AT THE NC CROP PROTECTION SCHOOL**

- Come to the respirator area at the time you signed up for.
- Complete blood pressure, lung function, and respirator fit testing.
- Pay for your medical clearance, respirator, and cartridges as applicable. (Payment in cash or check made payable to East Carolina University.)

If you already have a full-face respirator that you plan to use, bring it with you to the NC Crop Protection School for fit testing. *(If you have not previously been fit tested with your respirator, this fit testing may or may not be successful and another respirator may be needed.)*

Remember when selecting respiratory protection:

- the chemical label is the law relative to type of respirator, cartridges, and other personal protective equipment required
- that individual health conditions may require a more sophisticated device (i.e., air supply vs. air purifying)
- in addition to air purifying respirators, a self contained breathing apparatus will be required for emergency purposes

For more information about respirator selection, fit, and medical requirements:

- Contact Robin Tutor tutorr@ecu.edu or 919.880.4225
- Go to OSHA e-tools website http://63.234.227.130/SLTC/etools/respiratory/index.html

Unable to make it to Crop Protection School? Call or email for upcoming events and/or to arrange an appointment or group visit (available in NC). Pre-registrations are also being accepted for the NC Crop Protection School and several events across NC in 2011.

Stop by to see us anytime during the NC Crop Protection School at the NC AGROMEDICINE INSTITUTE booth!