

**Possible Childhood Seizures Related to Exposure to  
Cyfluthrin -- New Jersey**

**DATE:** September 20, 2007  
**TO:** Health Alert Network  
**FROM:** Calvin B. Johnson, MD, MPH  
Secretary of Health  
**SUBJECT:** Possible Childhood Seizures Related to Exposure to Cyfluthrin --  
New Jersey  
**DISTRIBUTION:** Statewide Distribution  
**LOCATION:** Statewide  
**STREET ADDRESS:** Statewide  
**COUNTY:** Statewide  
**MUNICIPALITY:** Statewide  
**ZIP CODE:** Statewide

**This transmission is a "Health Advisory", provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.**

**HOSPITALS:** PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEDICAL, PEDIATRIC, INFECTION CONTROL,  
NURSING AND LABORATORY STAFF IN YOUR HOSPITAL

**EMS COUNCILS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE

**FQHCs:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE

**LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTIONS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP

**Possible Childhood Seizures Related to Exposure to Cyfluthrin -- New Jersey**

During the past 24 hours the New Jersey Poison Information and Education System (NJPIES) has become aware of two children (ages 4 and 7 years) who developed seizures within 48 hours after minimal exposure (no ingestion or direct spray) to cyfluthrin. Neither child had a history of seizures. As of September 20, 2007, both had negative work-ups for seizures.

Cyfluthrin is an active ingredient for many pesticides, and is in the class of chemicals known as pyrethroids. Exposure to pyrethroids is not expected to result in such seizures unless massive exposure occurs. The specific products involved contain very little of the active ingredient.

The New Jersey State Department of Environmental Protection and the local office of the United States Environmental Protection Agency have been alerted and are following up.

The case definition is the occurrence of neurological symptoms in any person within 72 hours of exposure to the product.

More info on Cyfluthrin is found on the following link:

[http://www.pesticideinfo.org/Detail\\_Chemical.jsp?Rec\\_Id=PC33504](http://www.pesticideinfo.org/Detail_Chemical.jsp?Rec_Id=PC33504)

Persons who encounter similar cases are encouraged to report to their appropriate public health agencies, and to the regional EPA office. Local public health officials who receive reports of related cases are asked to report to their local health departments or District Offices through our toll-free number at **877-PA-HEALTH**.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

**Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

This information is current as of September 20, 2007 but may be modified in the future.