



Pesticide Control Office

Total Release Foggers

Total release foggers, also known as "bug bombs," are pesticides that release as a fog into a room. Foggers are designed to control a wide range of insect pests.

However, foggers can cause people and pets to feel ill if not used correctly. Inhaling the fog can result in irritation of the nose and throat, difficulty breathing, coughing, vomiting, diarrhea, headaches, dizziness, or allergic reactions. Eye damage can occur if a fogger is discharged into a person's eyes. Most exposure happens when people do not follow the pesticide label's instructions, if they do not leave their home immediately after activating the fogger, or if they return home too soon.

People who have respiratory conditions, such as asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) are at risk of serious illness from foggers. They can trigger asthma attacks or other severe respiratory reactions, which require emergency treatment.

Ingredients contained in foggers are also highly flammable. The fumes from the fog can be ignited by a spark from an electrical appliance that cycles on and off, such as a refrigerator or air conditioner; or by a flame, such as a pilot light.

Generally, foggers are not effective when trying to control bed bugs and other insects that shelter in cracks and crevices. Foggers only kill insects that are in exposed areas. Pests sheltering under furniture or in cracks, may avoid exposure to the pesticide. Pests can also build up resistance to the active ingredient in foggers, making the pesticide ineffective. The best way to control pests is to use **I**ntegrated **P**est **M**anagement practices that focus on pest prevention.



(Graphic credit: NPIC.orst.edu)

For more information regarding **IPM**, please visit us on the web at www.GRICDEQ.org or contact the **Pesticide Control Office** at **(520)562-2234**