

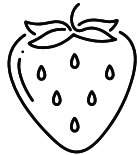
Methyl Bromide & Health

What is Methyl Bromide?

Methyl Bromide (MeBr) is an odorless, colorless pesticide.

It is toxic to many organs in the body.

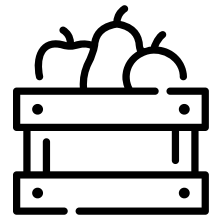
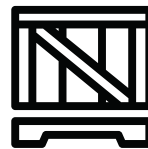
It was widely used in agricultural fields but banned because it harms the ozone layer.



Why is Methyl Bromide still used?

Methyl Bromide (MeBr) is used to kill pests in:

- Shipping containers
- Wood packing structures
- Imported fruits & vegetables
- Warehouses
- Agricultural fields



What are the health effects of Methyl Bromide exposure?

Short Term

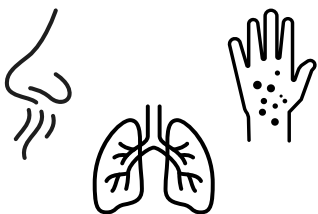
Headache
Dizziness
Irritation & burning of skin or eyes
Shortness of breath, coughing
Nausea, vomiting



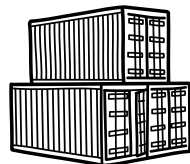
Damage to brain and nervous system
Lung disease
Mutation (damage) to DNA
Damage to liver
Reproductive harm

Long Term

How can you be exposed?



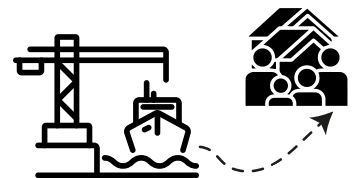
At-risk populations



Exposure during fumigations of freight at ports and processing facilities



Industrial workers at chemical factories



Residents near local fumigation sites. (i.e., port facilities, warehouses)

Methyl Bromide in CA

Despite a global phaseout, methyl bromide continues to be used near California ports, placing many communities at risk.

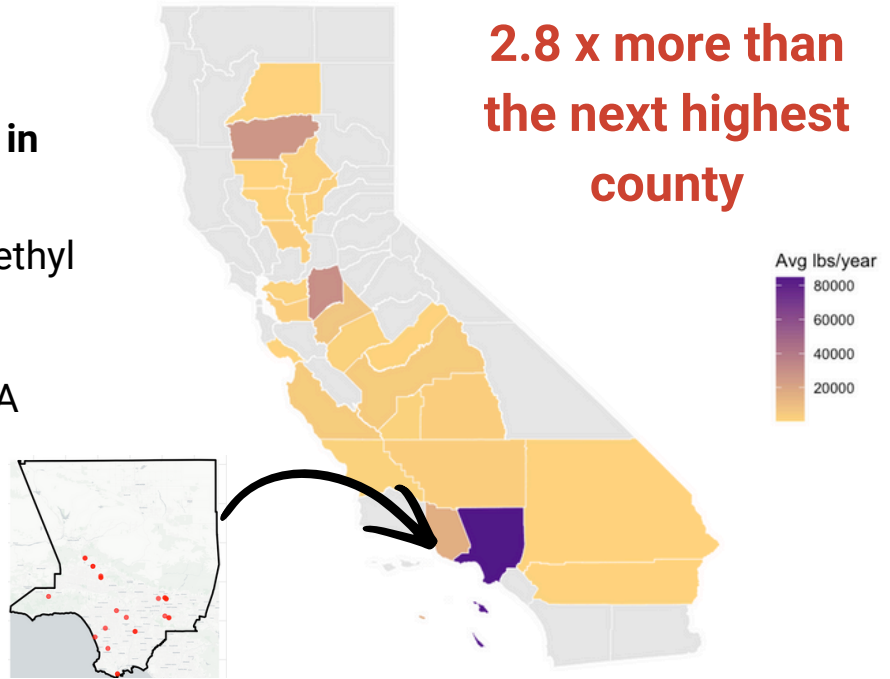
Where is it still used?

MeBr is used in **36 out of 58 counties in CA.**

Los Angeles County uses the most methyl bromide for commodity fumigation:

- 46% of all non-agricultural use in CA
- 20 permitted facilities (2016-2023)

594,302 lbs applied in LA county alone



What's in the air?

West Long Beach monitor found:

Average levels: 2x California's chronic health limit

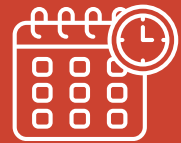


Extreme spikes detected on various occasions near schools, homes, and parks.



Seasonality

Peak use = January - April



60%

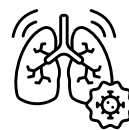
of non-agricultural fumigations occur during these months

1,397-18,543 lbs monthly use ranges

Why children are especially vulnerable?



Methyl Bromide is **heavier than air**
Children breathe more air per body weight



Studies in CA show MeBr exposure is linked to :

- Asthma ER visits
- Respiratory problems
- Lower birth weight babies



bit.ly/cejrl-infographics



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@CEJRL_UCI

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