



*Recently, a paper published in Environmental Science & Technology estimated that the global warming potential of the fumigant sulfuryl fluoride is greater than previously thought. The highly technical paper was accompanied by a press release issued by the University of California at Irvine which stimulated press coverage in a number of California papers.*

*Dow AgroSciences is aware of the research and has been working cooperatively with researchers in this area. The following talking points can be used to address questions about sulfuryl fluoride related to this recent publication.*

*Please forward media calls to Garry Hamlin (317-337-4799) for response.*

- Sulfuryl fluoride is a product needed to protect homes and irreplaceable structures (such as museums and historical buildings) from insect pests which do hundreds of millions of dollars worth of damage globally each year.
- Sulfuryl fluoride is also recognized around the world as a vital replacement for the stratospheric ozone depleting substance methyl bromide, which is being phased out under the Montreal Protocol.
- Research has been conducted for decades on alternatives to sulfuryl fluoride. No alternatives have been found that are as effective as sulfuryl fluoride against termites and other wood destroying insects and that pose as little potential for treatment-related damage to structures and their contents.
- Sulfuryl fluoride is not listed as a greenhouse gas under the Kyoto Protocol, which is the international treaty regulating greenhouse gases. Recently published information suggests that compared to other sources of greenhouse gases the potential contribution of sulfuryl fluoride is about one-one hundredth of one percent (0.01%) of total contributions to global warming.
- Compared to gases listed in the Kyoto Protocol such as carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, the amount of sulfuryl fluoride emitted into the atmosphere is extremely small. Sources of total greenhouse gas contributions (in CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents) are estimated as follows:
  - 77% from carbon dioxide (from fossil fuel use, deforestation, etc.)
  - 14% from methane (use of fossil fuels and other sources)
  - 8% from nitrous oxide
  - 1% from a combination of gases, such as chlorofluorocarbons, hydrofluorocarbons and some fluorine-containing gases
- The authors of the recent Environmental Science & Technology publication have stressed the “great uncertainty” behind current estimates of sulfuryl fluoride’s global warming potential and its lifetime in the atmosphere. Dow AgroSciences supports further scientific refinement of those estimates.
- Dow AgroSciences is dedicated to comprehensive, science-based evaluations of our products. The company has worked cooperatively with researchers who have contributed to this and related research.
- Dow AgroSciences is committed to ongoing registrations of sulfuryl fluoride. Consistent with our long-term goal of continuous optimization in product performance and stewardship, our company continues to evaluate opportunities for improving sulfuryl fluoride use in terms of best practices, effective treatment and environmental sustainability.

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