

community members are annoyed to find out that the actual formulation of Checkmate is a trade secret.

Manufactured by Suttera Inc. of Bend, Ore.—part of a family of business concerns operated by Steve Resnick, who gave \$144,000 to Gov. Schwarzenegger's election efforts last year—Checkmate is a time-released pheromone that confuses male apple moths and leads to a crash in the breeding population.

Sprayed from low-flying airplanes at the rate of 15-20 grams per acre, Checkmate has two main components, a synthetic LBAM pheromone and a microcapsule surrounding it.

"The pheromone is encapsulated using a minute amount of inert ingredients," the CDFA wrote on Oct. 4. "The inert ingredients are water and biodegradable elements used to delay release of the active ingredient so that treatment will be effective. The basic biodegradable building block is urea, a normal constituent of the human body that is derived from the breakdown of proteins that we eat and is ubiquitous in the environment."

Despite these claims, more than 110 persons in Monterey complained of shortness of breath, headaches, dizziness and burning lungs. One of them was Jack, the 6-year-old son of U.S. Air Force Maj. Tim Wilcox. "When I first heard about the spraying I thought, 'This is great, it's a pheromone, how natural can you get?'"

"Then they told us the precautions, like you have to close up the house at night," Wilcox adds. "My son started getting sick the first night after the spraying, severe congestions, the incessant rubbing of the eyes, he wouldn't eat, and this is a kid who loves to eat. Pretty soon he was in the emergency room at the point where his eyes were rolling back in his head. He just couldn't get enough air."

Jack spent three days in the hospital before coming home diagnosed with reactive airway disease. A relapse later in the month landed him in El Camino Hospital where pediatric experts diagnosed him with asthma and told Maj. Wilcox that exposure to pesticides might have possibly triggered the onset of the disease.

Wilcox's anger was given a target when the *Santa Cruz Sentinel* published a list of the inert ingredients on Sept. 28. A couple of "impassioned calls" from the manufacturer later and the list was yanked from the *Sentinel's* webpage. On Oct. 11, the paper informed its readers, "The *Sentinel* has been advised by legal counsel that because of state and federal trade secret laws, it can no longer publish the ingredients."

"When I found out the Santa Cruz paper disclosed the ingredients and heard about the isocyanine in it, I was really infuriated," Wilcox says. "I read that some-