

## Pesticide newsletter

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### Jurisdictional news



#### France: Indictment for manslaughter following phosphine poisoning

Following the death of a 21 years old woman in the hospital of Kourou (Guyane), [the investigation opened by the public prosecutor's office of Cayenne](#) determined that she was poisoned by a very toxic insecticide called phosphine. Her neighbor was using the product to preserve the rice stored in his premises. This would be the first case of death linked to the use of this insecticide in France.

The investigations carried out jointly by the gendarmerie company of Kourou and the [detachment of Cayenne of the OCLAESP](#) (Central Office of Fight against Harm to the Environment and to the Public Health) during six months made it possible to establish a link between the death of the young woman and the use of phosphine. Samples taken from the deceased concluded that the victim may have been acutely intoxicated by the product, which is very dangerous if the conditions of use are not respected. According to the anti-poison center of Paris and the national brigade of the veterinary and phytosanitary investigations of Rungis, aluminum phosphide would have [spread](#) in the house of the victim.

The manager of the facility was arrested and admitted non-compliant use of phosphine. He has been [indicted](#) on September 22, 2021 for manslaughter, use

of plant protection products without respecting the conditions of use and without authorization, and inappropriate use. He was placed under judicial supervision with a ban on engaging in any activity involving the sale or storage of foodstuffs.

This case has led the Cayenne Public Prosecutor's Office to call for the utmost vigilance regarding the use of this type of product and strict compliance with the regulatory conditions of use.

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