From:	Martin, Brandi@CDPR
To:	CDPR-Priority Closing
Cc:	County Ag Commissioner, Monterey; Healy, Heather@CDPR; McSwiggin, Casey x8330 (McSwigginMC@co.monterey.ca.us); Allen, Ken
Subject:	Priority Closing Report 52-MON-15 (Helicopter Crash During Pesticide Application in Romaine Lettuce; Pilot Deceased)
Date:	Friday, June 10, 2016 12:50:51 PM
Attachments:	52-MON-15 Closing Report.pdf

On Saturday, June 20, 2015, Mr. Frank Gomes, Jr., licensed journeyman pest control aircraft pilot for Gomes Farm Air Service, was applying fungicides to Romaine lettuce with a helicopter. During the application, dense low fog with 10-15 feet visibility moved in. While Mr. Gomes was applying the application's rinsate in the tank to the Romaine lettuce block, the helicopter blades hit a barbed wire fence, which was in front of an embankment between two lettuce blocks, flipping the helicopter upside down and causing it to crash, leaving him deceased at the scene. No violations were found during the course of this investigation. This investigation is now closed.

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