



Pesticide Illness Surveillance

Agricultural Drift Event Summaries Only (2012)

Event	Event Narrative	#	Active Ingredient(s)
120010	An adult male developed respiratory irritation and headache after pesticides applied by airblast sprayer to an apple orchard about 200 feet from his property drifted onto him. His clothes were wet and while outside, he felt the mist on his face. Weather records confirmed wind gusts up to 11mph in the direction from the application to his home. He notified Department of Ecology staff, who forwarded the complaint to WSDA. WSDA investigated and found that foliage samples from the resident's property were positive for drift.	1	Aliphatic petroleum hydrocarbons XDE-175-J XDE-175-L Thiophanate-methyl Magnesium, Zinc, Calcium
120051	A 55-year-old male sheriff department deputy was driving on a county road next to a wheat field when a pesticide aerial applicator passed over his vehicle at a very low altitude. He smelled an odor and felt something on his skin. He developed respiratory and ocular symptoms within one minute of that pass. He did not seek medical attention and washed at home four hours later. His symptoms lasted for approximately two days. WSDA investigated the incident and collected swab samples of the vehicle. Samples were positive for 1 of the 7 active ingredients in the tank mix.	1	Pyrasulfotole Technical MCPA, 2-ethylhexyl ester Bromoxynil octanoate Propiconazole Azoxystrobin Bromoxynil heptanoate
120056	A 34-year-old male was loading a tractor with a fertilizer when he was exposed to pesticides that drifted from an air-blast spray application approximately 65 feet away from him. He felt the spray on his nose and also smelled the spray. He washed his face 20 minutes later and developed dermal symptom 40 minutes after the incident. A clothing sample tested positive for traces of sulfur. He sought medical attention the next day.	1	Calcium polysulfide
120068	A 51-year-old female supervisor at a tree nursery was in the field working the hydraulics of the planter when she noticed that other workers nearby were breaking the plastic tarp over the fumigated soil about 500 feet away. Other workers had been moved out of that area. She experienced eye irritation and tears,	1	Methyl bromide Chloropicrin

	which worsened by the time she got home. She contacted her employer to find out what had happened and was advised to go to the emergency room. She missed two days of work and an additional two days of regular activities during the weekend. DOSH initiated a workplace inspection.		
120070	A 29-year-old female farm worker was thinning apple trees when an air-blast sprayer applied pesticides in the same block she was working. She indicated the applicator was as close as 20 meters way from her. She did not feel, taste, or smell the spray. However, she reported experiencing ocular symptoms. She worked thinning the previously sprayed block two days later, and reported neurological and respiratory symptoms. She sought medical attention four days after the original exposure.	1	Bacillus thuringiensis su Bacillus pumilus strain Q Bacillus thuringiensis Su Mineral oil - includes pa Sulfur Codling moth granulosis v
120076	A 28-year-old male farm worker on a tractor was sprayed by an airblast application happening 10 to 15 feet away from him. He developed neurological, ocular, and gastrointestinal symptoms. The employee was afraid of losing his job, which is why he did not want the incident referred to the Division of Occupational Safety and Health.	1	Gibberellic acid Pyraclostrobin boscalid
120078	A 32-year-old female farmworker felt mist on her face as she worked in an apple orchard. The sprayer didn't see her as she walked away from the work area. She reported irritation and sought medical attention.	1	Prohexadione calcium
120086	A crew of 10 female apple tree thinners ages 18 to 36 developed neurological, gastrointestinal, and ocular symptoms after a pesticide applicator sprayed apple trees on an adjacent field. The application was made with an air blast sprayer and a fungicide and two insecticides were in the tank mix. The workers smelled the pesticide and developed symptoms after they smelled the spray for 15 to 45 minutes. They were transported to a hospital emergency department by emergency medical services and decontaminated before treatment. Four of them sought medical care at a clinic the next day after they continued having symptoms. Clothing samples tested positive for residues of two of the active ingredients in the spray tank. The Department Labor and Industries (L&I) conducted a compliance investigation on the incident and assessed penalties regarding chemical hazards communication, employee safety training, and pesticide drift.	9	Mineral oil - includes pa Myclobutanil lambda-Cyhalothrin
120099	A 39-year-old female was completing the last half of an hour-long training ride on her bicycle when a crop dusting plane flew directly above her. The plane was applying fungicide containing petroleum distillates and fertilizer to a wheat field adjacent to the rural road she was riding on. She felt mist from the product released by the plane and inhaled it. During the half-hour bicycle ride home, she noticed dermatologic symptoms on her arms. She then developed eye irritation and respiratory symptoms, which worsened the following day. She sought medical attention and missed more than three days of work. WSDA investigated and the test results for samples of grass collected across the road from the target field were	1	Propiconazole

	positive for the fungicide.		
120107	A 36-year-old farmworker was in a truck following 10 to 20 meters behind his father's tractor as it was spraying an herbicide-fungicide mixture onto their winter wheat crop. Some of the spray reportedly got into the farmworker's face and eyes. He developed ocular symptoms the next day that lasted for almost a week. He sought health care.	1	Bromoxynil Propiconazole Imazamox
120133	A 42-year-old female farmworker was pruning apple trees, advancing ahead of co-workers when she experienced drift from a ground rig application to a pear orchard near her workplace. She doesn't think the applicator saw her. She felt very sick, noticed a strong odor and had respiratory and neurological symptoms. She sought medical attention. The other orchard owner provided spray records. The worker did not want to file a complaint.	1	Azinphos-Methyl
120146	A male and female, both 66 years of age, reported respiratory and eye irritation after a helicopter sprayed insecticide to a 25-acre field of blueberries located less than 300 feet from their home. The windows of their house were open at the time. A week later, the helicopter sprayed the field again with the same insecticide. The couple reported the same symptoms shortly after the application.	2	Zeta-Cypermethrin
120150	A 50-year-old male farm worker was driving a 4-wheeler early in the morning when he was accidentally drifted by an apple orchard applicator. He felt the spray on his face and eyes. He washed 20 minutes later. He developed some ocular, gastrointestinal, and neurological symptoms. He sought medical care the same day. The registered pesticides he was exposed to were unlikely the cause of his symptoms. However, a buffer that contained calcium chloride was used in the tank mix and is associated with the symptoms he described.	1	Flubendiamide Calcium chloride Imidacloprid
120159	A 46-year-old female setting up for a yard sale was exposed to pesticide drifting from a ground spray application happening to an adjacent field. She indicated that she was about 20 feet from the first row of trees and the applicator passed through the second row. She felt the mist on her face and arms. She washed her face one hour later at her home. She developed mild gastrointestinal symptoms and dermal symptoms, which included welts on her face and a swelled lower lip. The symptoms lasted about two days. She indicated that she did not seek medical care because she has no health insurance.	1	Azinphos-Methyl
120163	Three female pear pickers ages 21, 25 and 38 complained of neurological, gastrointestinal and respiratory symptoms after they were exposed to pesticide that drifted from an airblast application occurring to the same orchard where they worked. Their supervisor indicated that the applicator was approximately 20 to 40 feet away from them and the applicator stated he was 100 feet away from the workers. The workers started feeling symptoms after about thirty minutes to one hour of smelling odors from the application. One worker reported to be four rows away from the application and observed the pesticide mist through the trees. None of the workers missed any work and did not seek medical care. WSDA samples on foliage	2	Potassium 1-naphthaleneac Azinphos-Methyl

	in areas workers were located, tested positive for a plant growth regulator and traces of the insecticide that had been in the tank mix. Also, residues of the plant growth regulator and traces of the insecticide were found on clothing of one of the workers.		
120182	A fumigant application was conducted in front of a residential area. Twenty residential area neighbors ages 2 to 61 lived in front of the field complained of ocular and respiratory symptoms after the field was fumigated. One resident took his 8-year-old daughter to an ER after she developed gastrointestinal and respiratory symptoms. WSDA conducted an investigation of the incident. The field was improperly prepared for the application according to WSDA. The field had a number of rock boulders and tree shrubs that were supposed to be cleared before the application. This increased the potential for movement of the product off site. WSDA is in the process of issuing citations for improper soil preparation, as the label states soils must be in good tilth and free of large clods before the application. Also, at the time of the application, unfavorable weather condition were eminent as above normal temperatures for the day and low wind speed were present increasing the potential for inversion conditions.	19	1,3-Dichloropropene Chloropicrin