



Pesticide Illness Surveillance

Agricultural Drift Event Summaries (2013)

Event	Event Narrative	#	Active Ingredient(s)
130009	A 48-year-old female developed respiratory and gastrointestinal symptoms after breathing odors from an herbicide application at an alfalfa field. She was driving her car about 1/8 of a mile away from the sprayer. She reported the incident to Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) two days later after she could still smell the chemical odor in her car. A day later, (three days after exposure,) WSDA collected swab samples from the windows and painted surfaces of her car. The samples showed residues of the active ingredients of the herbicides. She did not seek medical care and missed one day from work.	1	Paraquat dichloride Hexazinone Pendimethalin
130011	A 22-year-old man with a history of asthma was helping his brother-in-law on a construction site. He heard a tractor and said he looked towards the applicator as he started to spray with an air blaster. He felt the mist on his face and breathed the spray. He developed gastrointestinal and respiratory symptoms within minutes of his exposure. He sought medical care five days later after experiencing persistent respiratory symptoms.	1	Chlorpyrifos
130015	A couple, husband age 61 and wife age 66 developed some gastrointestinal, neurological, and upper respiratory symptoms after a number of air-blast applications were conducted adjacent to their property. A pear orchard located across their home was sprayed with two sulfur based fungicides. They smelled the rotten odor smell characteristic of sulfur applications. Still, they could not tell the difference between the sulfur from the applications and a manure fertilizer application conducted on the orchard around the same time. WSDA samples on the home and fence were positive for sulfur residues.	2	Copper oxychloride Mineral oil Aliphatic petroleum solve Calcium polysulfide Sulfur Kaolin Cytokinin (as kinetin)
130022	A 36-year-old female farmworker was tying cherry trees and was exposed to drift from an air blast	1	Propiconazole

	application to other cherry trees nearby. She developed an itchy rash and sought medical attention.		AVIGLYCINE hydrochloride
130024	Seven male and five female farmworkers reported irritation and other health effects after high toxicity fungicide applied to an adjacent apple orchard drifted onto them. At the time, they were working thinning apple blossoms. Four workers sought medical attention. WSDA investigated and samples taken from foliage and worker's clothing were positive for the fungicide. Ten additional workers were also thinning in the area but were unable to be reached for interview.	10	Calcium polysulfide
130037	A 45-year-old male homeowner and his 10- and 17-year-old sons were getting ready to leave their home as an applicator driving an air-blaster was spraying a cherry orchard in front of their property. The homeowner noticed an overspray coming onto his property and decided to take a picture of the application. He was approximately within 50 feet away from the air-baster as he took pictures of the air-blast application. The homeowner and one of his sons developed upper respiratory symptoms later. They did not seek medical attention. WSDA samples tested positive for pesticide residues on the property and on the clothing of the homeowner. The application was made without an observer to avoid potential drift situations.	1	Sulfur Pyraclostrobin XDE - 175-J XDE - 175-L boscalid
130048	A 36-year-old male motorcycle driver was travelling from Walla Walla to the Tri-Cities when he saw a group of people working on an air-blast sprayer. The sprayer was on as he passed by, and he breathed the vapors for about 30 seconds; he also felt a mist. He quickly developed respiratory symptoms. He also developed some gastrointestinal and neurological symptoms. He reported the incident to WSDA.	1	Chlorpyrifos Phosmet Bifenthrin
130055	A 52-year-old female was at a neighbor's home where an application of a bird repellent was conducted. She indicated that the application was conducted as close as 20 feet away from her. She reported breathing and tasting the spray. She developed neurological, respiratory, and gastrointestinal symptoms. She sought medical care the next day. WSDA samples were negative for the product applied. A WSDA laboratory indicated the product is highly volatile and would dissipate without traces in a matter of hours after the application.	1	Methyl anthranilate
130062	Nine farmworkers and their foreman reported drift from the insecticide application to apples adjacent to the cherry orchard where they were on ladders pruning. A male and female who were closest to the apple orchard application developed gastrointestinal symptoms and dizziness and went to the hospital emergency department. Five other workers reported eye irritation and other symptoms. WSDA samples taken from both orchards were positive for the banned insecticide, which was only allowed to be used until existing stocks were depleted through September of 2014 (this incident was in 2013 so they were within their rights to use it).	7	Azinphos-Methyl Mineral oil
130078	A 26-year-old male farmworker developed a headache and gastrointestinal health effects after he inhaled	1	EPTC (S-Ethyl dipropyl)

	fumes that drifted from an application of pesticides to potatoes next to the onion field he and others were weeding. One product was a cholinesterase inhibitor, a powerful chemical known to cause illness. He went to the hospital emergency department.		thiocarbamate) Metolachlor
130085	A 29-year-old farmworker developed gastrointestinal and neurological health effects as she worked thinning apples in an orchard that was also being sprayed with airblast equipment. She sought healthcare.	1	Gibberellic acid Quinoxyfen Spinosad
130087	A 21-year-old male was asked to work in a hop field at the time the field was applied with a 2, 4-D herbicide. He smelled, tasted and saw the spray mist flying on the air while working five rows away from the application area. He worked inside the treated area. The REI for this product is 12 hours, so he entered before the REI had expired. He was transported to a hospital emergency department by his supervisor after he developed gastrointestinal and neurological symptoms. He was not wearing coveralls and chemical resistant gloves as required in the label of the product for early entry.	1	Acetic acid 2,4-dichlorophenoxy 2-ethylhexyl ester
130092	A 61-year-old male farm worker was thinning apple trees when he noticed an air blaster spraying approximately 175 feet away from where he was working. He saw the mist of the air blaster moving toward him and smelled a strong odor. He started developing paresthesia in the lips and tongue as well as some gastrointestinal and respiratory symptoms. He sought medical care the next day and was discharged after examination. The Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) conducted an investigation that concluded the application occurred at the distance indicated by the worker and obtained spray records of the application. L&I did not issue citations for violations and penalties were not assessed. One of the products in the tank mix was capable of producing the symptoms the worker experienced after he inhaled the vapors.	1	Abamectin Spirodiclofen
130101	Twenty-seven farm workers; eleven females and sixteen men; ages 18 to 73 were thinning apple trees when a neighboring orchard applicator applied a tank mix of two pesticides by airblast sprayer. A row of trees divided the two orchards and the workers smelled the pesticide. None of the workers felt the mist; however, some of them indicated the smell was strong. The exposure lasted for approximately 30 minutes and some of the workers developed gastrointestinal and neurological symptoms. They were later moved to another area of the orchard. However, approximately two hours later they were asked to work in the same area where they were earlier, potentially exposing themselves to pesticide residues. Most of the workers sought medical care the same day after work. Cholinesterase samples were drawn for 21 patients and all samples were within normal limits compared to the established laboratory parameters. WSDA investigated the drift incident obtaining foliar samples in areas workers were thinning. Samples tested positive for residues of spiroadiclofen, one of the two active ingredients in the tank mix. DOH considered the positive samples of one of the active ingredients as positive physical evidence confirming the	25	Azinphos-Methyl Spirodiclofen

	exposure.		
130107	A 21-year-old female farmworker developed gastrointestinal and neurological symptoms after an air blast application to a pear orchard drifted to her work area, where she was thinning apples. A pesticide in the tank mix contained petroleum distillates. She sought medical attention.	1	Mineral oil XDE - 175-J XDE - 175-L
130108	A 56-year-old male and a 34-year-old female resident of a resort subdivision neighboring a cherry orchard developed respiratory symptoms after an applicator decided to spray the trees with a repellent for mammals. Deer were entering into the orchard and were damaging newly planted trees. This incident was a referral from the county health district and WSDA. The 56-year-old male indicated that the application occurred in the morning for two hours. He was standing 60 meters away from the applicator and tried to talk to the applicator, but was concerned about the toxicity of the product. He could smell the spray and developed respiratory symptoms. The 36-year-old female developed a cough and no other symptoms. None of the residents sought medical attention; and according to the fist complainant the smell dissipated the same day. WSDA concluded that precautions were taken to avoid drift and label directives were followed. However, during their Worker Protection Standards (WOS) inspection a number of items were cited that included lack of applicator training. All of the citations were related to the orchard's own WPS program. None of the citations related to the repellent application.	1	Capsaicin (in oleoresin of capsicum))
130118	Three nursery workers reported drift from an herbicide application less than 100 yards from where they worked separating cabbage plants. They reported neurological and gastrointestinal symptoms. One employee sought medical care for eye irritation. DOSH conducted a worksite inspection and DOH accompanied them to interview the workers involved.	3	Butoxyethyl 2,4-dichlorop Butoxyethyl triclopyr
130123	A 26-year-old male farm worker was working in a vineyard when he noticed an air-blaster spraying the field 20 meters away from him. He did not feel the mist but smelled the spray. He later worked in the areas the applicator just sprayed. He developed gastrointestinal and neurological symptoms and sought medical care the same day. Spray records provided by the employer indicated the application was made with the active ingredient acetamiprid.	1	Alcohols, C11-15-secondar Acetamiprid