Outline

• Department of Health (DOH) investigation process with examples
• Focus data on drift investigations and findings
Pesticide Illness Surveillance Process

DOH receives report
Investigates and concludes if related or not.

Data is entered into a database, de-identified, and analyzed.
DOH shares findings, provides to NIOSH, who checks and provides to EPA

Sources:
- Hospital or Healthcare Provider
- L&I Workers Comp Poison Control Center
- Department of Agriculture
- Other sources

- WAPC/Physician: 45%
- L&I/Workers Comp: 34%
- WSDA: 7%
- Other: 14%
Case Study

**WSDA reports** they are investigating a claim of pesticide drift made by a person who lives in a home that is near apple and cherry orchards.

He reported to WSDA that his family has experienced illness as a result of drift.

**What we do:**

Contact the person; interview.

- Explain who we are and why we are calling them.
- Who was in the home at the time? In the area?
- Symptom onset- duration? Medical care? How are you feeling now?
- Attempt to pin-down dates, locations, distances.
- Do they have questions for me?
- Coordinate with WSDA investigator: Environmental sampling? Application records? On-site visit? Distances?
- Obtain and review medical records for each person who sought medical care.
- Research pesticide ingredients, if known; Check maps and weather data. Pictures.
- Assess all available data and classify the case as confirmed or not.
- Enter results into database.
- Provide a report summarizing findings, if requested.
Case Classification Criteria

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has established criteria that include:

- **Exposure** • Positive Environmental Samples
- **Health Effects** • Two or more symptoms
- **Cause-Effect** • Consistent with literature

Evidence will vary in different investigations. If sufficient evidence is obtained the case (and event) will be confirmed. De-identified data from confirmed cases and events are sent to NIOSH and analyzed by DOH.
Case Study

WAPC reports call from attending physician; a patient at ED; Initial signs/symptoms are described.
Patient is conscious and says that he was hit by pesticides from a plane spraying a potato circle near to where he was working.
Pesticide: “AsanL Prostk”

What we do:
• Obtain and review medical records.
• Contact the person; interview in Spanish.
• Explain who we are and why we are calling them.
• How are you feeling now? Tell me what happened?
• Was there anyone else with you at the time?
• Attempt to get contact information for crew boss/employer, others potentially exposed (all voluntary).
• Report to L&I or WSDA as appropriate.
• Request application records if necessary, and research pesticides involved.
• Check for L&I reports; Contact others if involved and collect all available data.
• Research weather and distances from on-line tools.
• Assess each persons case to classify the case as confirmed or not.
• Enter results into database.
• Provide a report summarizing findings, if requested.

https://www.doh.wa.gov...WTN/Pesticides

Events

Cases

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