PIRT PANEL REVIEW
PESTICIDE APPLICATION SAFETY WORKGROUP
JUNE 21, 2018

Wayne Clifford, Pesticide Illness Surveillance Manager
Office of Environmental Public Health Sciences
Washington State Department of Health
PIRT Panel Review

Chapter 70.104 RCW: Pesticides – Health Hazards
1989 Legislature

• 70.104.080 Pesticide Panel – Generally
  • Pesticide Incident Reporting and Tracking Review Panel (PIRT) membership:
    • Department of Health serve as coordinating agency and Chair
    • Agency Members: Labor and Industries, Agriculture, Natural Resources, Wildlife, and Ecology.
    • University of Washington Environmental Health
    • Washington State University Cooperative Extension
    • Washington Poison Control Center
    • Governor Appointed: Practicing Toxicologist, and a member of the public
PIRT Panel Review

Chapter 70.104.090 **Pesticide Panel – Responsibilities**

1) Establish guidelines for centralizing information on pesticide incidents

2) Recommend procedures for investigating pesticide incidents

3) Monitor response time for agencies

4) Review difficult or complex pesticide incidents

5) Identify gaps in state or federal law to protect human health
   - Pays specific attention to re-entry intervals and pesticide labeling

6) Review and approve an annual report (PIRT Report)
Chapter 70.104.090 **Pesticide Panel – Responsibilities**

(Continued)

6) Review and approve an annual report (PIRT Report)
   
   a) A summary of year’s activities
   b) A synopsis of cases reviewed
   c) Descriptive listing of cases with adverse health effects
   d) A tabulation of data
   e) An assessment of the effects of exposures in the workplace
   f) Identification of trends, issues, and needs
   g) Recommendations for improved pesticide use practices
PIRT Panel Review

- Meetings
  - PIRT meeting schedule was established in the statute to be monthly.

- Staffing
  - Department of Health staffed, chaired, and provided logistical support for the meetings

- Reporting
  - Department of Health compiled, and published the annual report

- PIRT Panel was eliminated in 2009 due to budget reductions
PIRT Panel Review

The system today:

• Investigating
  • Department of Health still carries out illness investigations as do L&I, WSDA and Ecology

• Reporting
  • DOH no longer publishes a report
  • Health data and event summaries are published on the Washington Tracking Network
    • [www.doh.wa.gov/wtn](http://www.doh.wa.gov/wtn)

• Coordinating
  • L&I, WSDA, and DOH meet quarterly as a program management practice

Past PIRT reports can be accessed at [www.doh.wa.gov/PIRT](http://www.doh.wa.gov/PIRT)
PIRT Panel Review

Gaps in the Absence of PIRT

• Multi-agency data is not integrated and available
• Stakeholders have less opportunity to engage in findings
• Agencies have less opportunity to collaborate on improvements

Benefits of the absence of PIRT

• Cost savings
• Staff time focused on other business needs
Thank You

Wayne Clifford
Wayne.Clifford@doh.wa.gov
360-236-3181