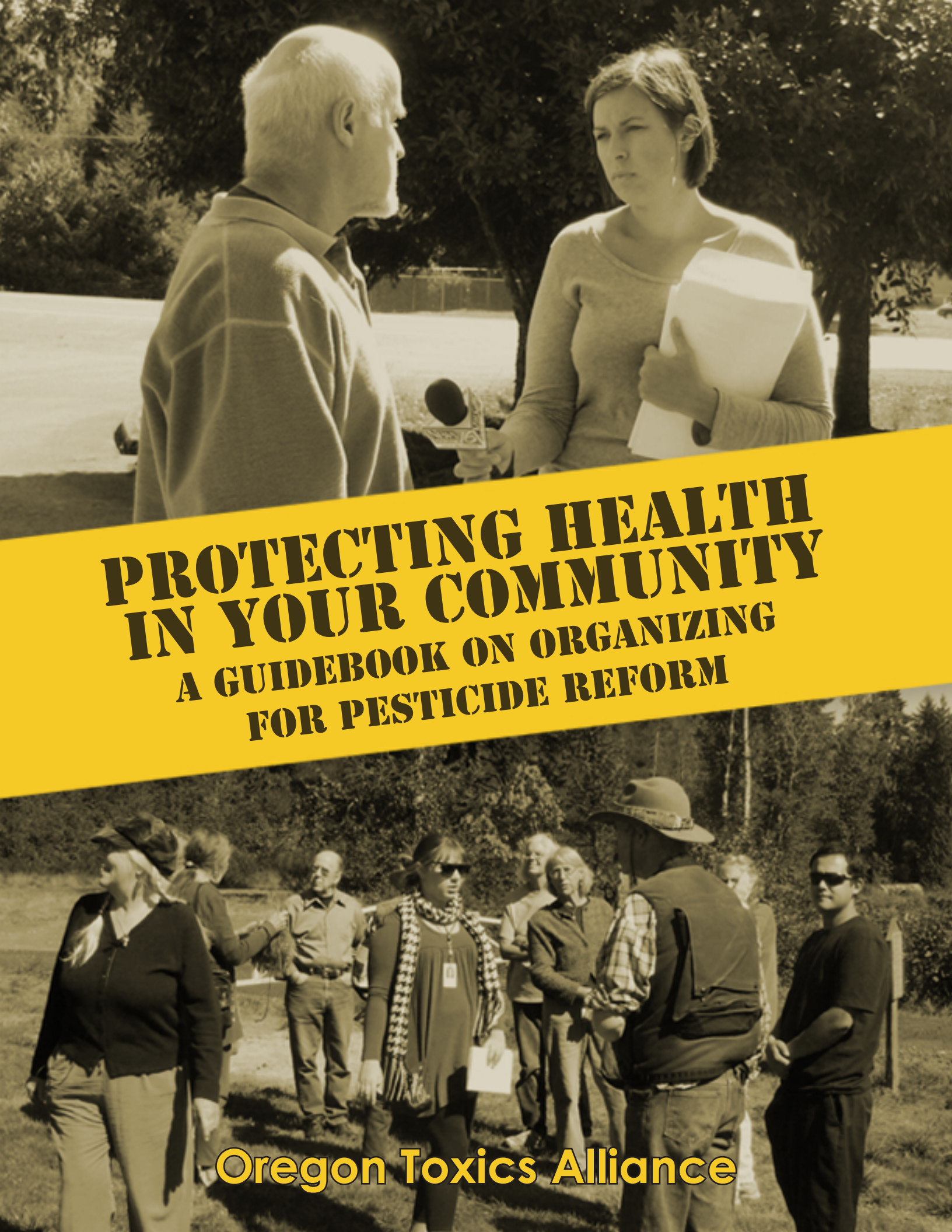

PROTECTING HEALTH IN YOUR COMMUNITY

A GUIDEBOOK ON ORGANIZING FOR PESTICIDE REFORM

Oregon Toxics Alliance

Protecting Health in Your Community

A Guidebook on Organizing for Pesticide Reform

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Introduction

This guidebook focuses on pesticide issues and is tailored toward Oregon residents. However, many principles and tips can be extrapolated to other issues, environmental and otherwise. Similarly, the ideas presented can be implemented in other states, though specific agencies and contact information will be different.

As an interactive PDF, this guidebook links to other credible sources and often documents or forms that other groups have produced and which we feel would be helpful to you and your group throughout the organizing process. We recognize that pesticide issues are widespread and that many organizations have worked hard on these issues. The inclusion of a particular source is not necessarily an endorsement; the omission of a source is likewise not necessarily a criticism.

Organizational Background: Oregon Toxics Alliance

Oregon Toxics Alliance (OTA) is taking a leading role to systematically challenge the root causes of toxic pollution in Oregon. We provide direct-action on local projects to empower communities to actively protect themselves and enact long-term solutions to protect Oregon's environment. OTA provides the scientific and organizational resources to give communities the tools they need to reduce pollution and toxics risks. This guidebook is one such resource.

The Alliance's unique role is to work at the nexus of community-based advocacy and government policy reform - leveraging community-based grassroots work to call for stronger state policies that will reduce the use and disposal of toxic chemicals. Our vision is a toxics-free Oregon.

OTA was formed in 1999 by Mary O'Brien (nationally-acclaimed writer and environmental activist) and Michael Carrigan (longtime Pacific Northwest peace activist) and a core group of other environmental advocates as the outgrowth of a successful grassroots strategy to guarantee the right of all people to know about toxics pollution in their community. Their efforts resulted in the first municipal toxics reporting program in the United States – the Eugene Community Toxics Right-to-Know program. This program brought industrial emissions reporting out of corporate boardrooms and into the public sphere, thus allowing low-income neighborhoods located in industrial areas to have accurate air and water quality data available for environmental health advocacy. OTA continues to defend and watchdog this program and keep it the strongest toxics reporting program in the nation.

OTA has a ten year history of community/grassroots organizing for systemic policy change; our successes include banning field burning in the Willamette Valley; stopping two fossil fuel

power plants planned for the Willamette Valley; adding environmental standards to state energy production guidelines; passing two laws that prevent public exposure to hazardous organic compounds and reduce fossil fuel waste at gas stations. At the heart of OTA's work is our ongoing commitment to provide leadership for the grassroots coalitions. We have provided the leadership for coalitions such as the Rail Road Pollution Coalition, Save Our Valley, the West Eugene Industrial Corridor Environmental Health Project, and the Oregon Pesticide Action Workgroup (serving Oregon's rural counties).

OTA is also playing a leading role to frame pesticides exposure as children's health and human rights issues. We initiated legislation leading to safer pesticide policies at Oregon schools. As a result, all public & private schools (K-12) in Oregon are now required to implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policies and procedures. IPM procedures address pest problems using a progressive decision-making process that prioritizes environmental health and allows only low-toxicity pesticides when other alternatives prove unsuccessful.

[See OTA report WARNING! Hazards to Children: Pesticides in Our Schools, 2008 download at http://www.oregontoxics.org/pesticide/schools/whitepaper/whitepaper.html]

The Oregon Pesticide Action Workgroup

The Oregon Pesticide Action Workgroup is a local, grassroots leadership project that supplies mentoring, networking and organizational support and feedback on local pesticide opposition projects. OPAWG meets monthly and maintains an active coalition of small city and rural residents who support the concept of pesticide reform and the human right to a poison-free environment. Through OPAWG, OTA provides web access and media activities to many small towns and rural communities who are fighting to stop pesticide drift and run-off. OTA believes that developing a statewide voice and supporting these grassroots efforts is critical to advancing legislative pesticide reform.

Over the years our work has retained its focus on helping communities defend themselves against chemical contamination by organizing innovative community-based approaches to address social and environmental harm. OTA is fine-tuning the organizational focus by consciously articulating human rights norms as they apply to toxic chemical exposure. For example, OTA has recently commissioned or written formal human rights assessments in order to provide a framework for many of our projects. These assessments increase our ability to build community capacity, link research with advocacy, and apply a social justice approach to community organizing.

OTA invites any individual or organization interested in using this Guidebook on Organizing for Pesticide Reform to contact us, learn more about our projects, and become an Oregon Pesticide Action Workgroup coalition member. If your community is experiencing pesticide exposures and environmental poisoning, you will find that working in coalition is the most effective and successful way of achieving your goals.

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Chapter 1
Building a Campaign Strategy

1. Define Your Goals

Essential to effective community organizing is knowing what you want to change, create or promote. Be sure to have a clear, concise and measurable goal and to differentiate between events, media and objectives. Your goal is not to hold a rally about pesticide use – this is an event. Your goal is most likely something like "To prompt the county to reduce pesticide application by 60% over the next two years" and events and media are tools to help you achieve this goal. Decide whether your campaign will act on the "offense" to promote new methods and alternatives such as Integrated Pest Management or on the "defense" to challenge current chemical pesticide use and call for reductions.

2. Conduct Research

Gather information on your cause and do enough research on your issue that you can effectively present your argument and objectives to others – know the arguments that both support and oppose your goals. Educate yourself on current policies, areas open for change, beneficial resources in the private sector, government and/or community, and just as importantly, your audience. Don't spend time and money reaching audiences that can't help you. Put your efforts and PR dollars to work more effectively by targeting and prioritizing your audiences.

3. Communication

Craft clear, concise messages that resonate with your target audience. It is also helpful to direct your message to specific groups within your audience. Remember that, in almost all cases, individuals act out of self-interest, so frame the issue in ways that show how a person will benefit from helping your cause and taking the action you suggest. For instance, when talking about pesticides with teachers and parents of young children, emphasize the detrimental health effects of pesticides on children who play in sprayed fields or address issues of cost with businesses and government officials. Be sure to also suggest how individuals can take action. Don't just present a problem and walk away. Encourage solutions, be they long term, short term or one-time actions. Be specific about what people can DO and help them feel positive about change they can make around the issue.

4. Make the Case – Why Now?

After presenting suggestions for action and involvement, make your case for why the action is an important matter NOW. Is there an action point that is time critical, like pending legislation, a vote or upcoming public comment period? If this is not the case, help create a sense of urgency in other ways. For instance, emphasize that pesticide residues can build up over time and thus stopping applications as soon as possible is essential to slowing accumulation in the environment, humans and animals. Again, describe what to do and how to do it. Get creative and grab attention.

5. Expertise

To garner more legitimacy and credibility, bring in expert opinions and research when necessary and applicable. This can lend more weight to your claims and encourage others to take your suggestions more seriously. It may also be possible for you to discover if state or federal agencies have done water quality or well water testing in your area. They may have data on the presence of pesticides in local water, soil or even food crops. Request documentation through a public records request (see **Chapter 5**) for further backing to your claims. These types of documentation will be more helpful than recruiting high-cost researchers or lawyers. Try to incorporate existing reports, documents and records and use a strong network of community members to promote your cause as much as possible and only turn to hiring a lawyer or other expert (such as a toxicologist) if absolutely necessary. These expert services can be expensive and alter the focus of the debate to a technical and legal battle. Often you will be able to take advantage of already published expert opinions, existing legal precedents and public documents to provide enough credible support for your cause.

6. Identify the Locus of Change

Identify what specific local or state policy changes could help you achieve your goal and bring these ideas into your discussions, especially with government officials.

7. Build Awareness and Support Within the Community

Do not limit yourself to just one method of publicity. Talk and spread your message in multiple ways. There are many ideas for this in **Chapter 2**. Involve many different groups of people, government officials and other public organizations. It can also be beneficial to try to involve the support of local businesses that stand for similar values as your group and want to achieve similar goals. A good example of this kind of relationship can be found with Mountain Rose Herbs. This company has virtually eliminated pesticides from their chain of production, by discontinuing use on their lands and only purchasing from select suppliers. They extend support to Oregon Toxics Alliance as well as a number of other non-profits

and organizations. Involving businesses can be a good form of publicity and even financial support, however many will limit their support to larger, more established groups. In general, working with a group and organizing with others in the community will get the attention of your local government, elected officials, the media and even more potentially interested individuals. Community organizing is highly effective (as evidenced by the many success stories featured in **Chapter 6**) and allows you to benefit from others' knowledge, skills and resources.

A note on working in a community group: Group work can be challenging; it can be difficult to address everyone's concerns and facilitate their ideas and wishes. To ensure a successful group environment, be sure to be open and honest. Be humble – don't assume that you know more than everyone else and make sure that everyone has a voice in the group. Part of the benefit of groups is that everyone brings something unique and insightful - take advantage of this.

8. Pesticides and Farmworkers

Protecting farm workers is an important avenue for advancing pesticide policy reform, human rights and defending the importance of human safety and health.

Pesticides pose risks of short- and long-term illness to farm workers and their families. Workers who mix, load or apply pesticides (known as pesticide handlers) can be exposed to toxic pesticides due to spills, splashes, defective, missing or inadequate protective equipment, direct spray, or drift. Workers who perform hand labor tasks in areas that have been treated with pesticides face exposure from direct spray, drift or contact with pesticide residues on the crop or soil. Farm worker families can also be injured by pesticide when farm worker children play in treated fields, when workers inadvertently "take home" pesticide residues on their hair, skin or clothing or when pesticides drift onto outdoor play areas and get tracked into homes, etc.

Studies conducted in the Oregon's Hood River Valley found that children of migrant farmworkers are at increased risk of exposure to organophosphate pesticides because of "carry-home" transport processes and residential location. In a follow-up study, researchers also found an association between low levels of pesticide exposure and deficits in neurobehavioral performance.

To help educate the public about the dangers that farm workers face and to assist farm workers, OTA created an English and Spanish version of a brochure titled "Pesticides, Farmworkers and Families" English and Spanish versions of this brochure are included in the **Appendix**.

9. Make it Local

Your case will be much more provocative if it is presented with a local angle. Pesticide incidences and application happen locally and their effects are seen locally. Encourage others to think about chemical pesticide issues this way and present your data and information in a way that emphasizes the local impact. Reference particular streams or natural areas and local schools or neighborhoods where individuals might have friends, children or other family. This tactic is used often in journalism, with impactful results.
For instance, when writing an article about chemical herbicide sprays being done by Weyerhaeuser along Cedar Creek, The Register Guard told the story from the perspective of a local organic blueberry farmer whose crops and land were being affected. Using this angle grounded the story and made the issue of herbicide drift and runoff more accessible to other local people who know the area or buy produce from this farmer. It then becomes more likely that others will be supportive of your cause, as they will see that it is their cause as well. It may also be helpful to use data to make rankings, placing the local area in direct comparison with other places (e.g. "top 10 counties by chemical pesticide contamination in waterways").

Chapter 2
Media and Communications

There are many different ways to engage the community and local area and raise awareness about pesticide incidences (examples of methods described in this chapter are included in the **Appendix**, when applicable). Some basic ways are as follows:

Press

When working with or through the press, there are many options to choose from to get your message across. You can submit letters to the editor, write an op-ed piece or influence editorial boards, submit reports and press releases, and produce public service announcements.

- Letters to the Editor: this is a good way to inform others about issues and indicates to policy makers where their constituents' major areas of concern are. To be most effective, make sure that you carefully review any rules or stipulations of the paper. Submit mainly to local papers; large, national papers are extremely selective and your target audience is most likely to see the letter if it is published in a widely-read, local paper. Be sure to write the letter simply and concisely, with your target audience in mind, avoiding extreme overstatement or hostility. Use facts and stick to one main point. It can also be helpful to link your letter to an event currently occurring in the community (a rally, community meeting, etc.) or to a personal anecdote.

- Op-Eds and Editorials: many newspapers, including the Register Guard and the Oregonian accept Guest Viewpoints and Op-Ed pieces, which can be an incredibly effective way to reach a large audience. Policy makers and representatives read these sections making this a good way to reach them if direct meetings are not possible. When writing an Op-Ed, be sure to follow three main guidelines:

  1. Use facts
  2. Avoid hyperbole
  3. Have a few other community members read and edit your piece before submitting

  Engaging your local editorial board can be a good method of media outreach as well. Included in the **Appendix** is a basic outline for meeting with these boards and included in the **Resources** section is information on where to submit Letters to the Editor and Op-Eds.

- Submit Reports: you can submit new reports, studies, or other findings that you have gathered to news agencies for publication. This kind of communication is most helpful if you are part of an organization that has compiled information or issued an original report.

- Press Releases: when writing a press release, be sure to keep the language and syntax simple, short and to the point. Directly address the questions "What is happening?" "Who and what is involved?" "Why should people care about this news?" "What is the purpose of reporting this news?" and "Who is the source of this news?" A checklist for press release drafts is included in the **Appendix**.

- Public Service Announcements: these can also be a good way to reach your local audience, especially via radio. Beyond Pesticides offers a step-by-step guide to crafting PSAs.

Elected Officials

Meeting with elected officials is a good way to show them just how serious you are about pesticides and other issues. This is especially important when major legislation affecting pesticide policy is nearing a vote.

Working with elected officials at the local (city or county) level is most likely the to best way to create real change until you have more support. These local lawmakers can help you have a meaningful impact in your local area, which you can then build on at a larger scale. Local leaders tend to respond well to the following:

- A large, strong group of voters
- Opportunities for personal career advancement
- "Cost-savings" for the city
- Tax cuts
- Rational, ethically sound arguments

Preparation and careful planning for the meeting is essential. Research the official with whom you are to meet; know their areas and issues of interest, how they have acted in the past and which groups and/or individuals influence their decisions. Know exactly what you want from the elected official. Are you asking for their vote on a bill? Their support for your group? That they draft legislation, pass a resolution or take other action related to chemical pesticide use?

During the meeting, act appropriately professional and remain positive and polite throughout, even if you and the elected official do not completely agree. Your argument will be much more effective if you stay positive and do not become hostile. Make sure that you let them do an equal amount of talking so that they can ask you questions and you can address any direct concerns that they may have. Be sure to ask for a commitment of some sort to your cause and leave your information.

Follow up with a thank you letter no matter the outcome of the meeting. In this letter you can provide further information addressing outstanding concerns that the elected official had or simply thank them for their support if it was given.

Information on how to reach contacts within the Oregon government is listed in the

Resources section and county and city specific information can be found on their websites. Look for either your direct representative or an individual within a department relevant to pesticide use (Parks and Recreation, agriculture etc.)

Pest Control Companies

Oregon Toxics Alliance suggests a number of steps to take when talking with pest control service providers who are planning to apply pesticides.

- Advocate for non-toxic or least-toxic alternatives: contact the company and let them know about your concerns with conventional chemical pesticides and ask that least- or non-toxic pest management practices be used instead.

- Be persistent: They may give you many reasons why conventional pesticides must be used (for instance that they are more effective), but stay positive and persistent. In nearly all cases there are preventative and non-toxic alternatives that are just as effective, if not more so.

- Identify which pesticides are to be used and what their effects are: should the company continue with their conventional methods, identify the pesticides to be used, what chemicals they are made of and their health and environmental effects. Information can be found on websites such as Beyond Pesticides on their Toxic Pesticide Factsheets and Pesticide Gateway Index and on the website for the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides.

- Request verification, notification and identification: Ask that the pest control company provide copies of the pesticide label and Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) on the pesticides to be used. You can also find copies of these documents on this CMDS website. Simply click on the manufacturer of the pesticide in question and you will be sent to a list of all their products' labels and MSDSs in PDF format. Note that sometimes an applicator may be using a pesticide that is not registered for that setting, which would be illegal (for example using a pesticide in a residential setting that is only registered for agricultural use). You may also want to ask for verification of the training and state certification/ licensing of those who will be applying the chemicals, prior notification of the application time, and that all applied areas be identified at the site as being treated with toxic pesticides. This identification should be done at least 48 hours before and after a spray application.

Others in the Community

It can be difficult to encourage others in the community to engage on the behalf of reducing and eliminating toxic pesticide use on their own property and in the community. However, there are a few key points that you can use to appeal to others who are reluctant to see the importance of this issue:

- Emphasize published research that documents harm to human health

- Protection of children is vital

- Discuss the persistence and/or bioaccumulation of pesticides in the environment
- Stress saving money
- Alternatives have been shown to work
- Consumers have a right to know what is in products
- Use reasonable rhetoric
- Keep it simple

Attending community and government meetings can be good ways to connect with others. Trade contact information with others at these meetings, especially those who speak out often on issues similar to yours – they may be willing to help publicize your cause as well and get involved with your projects. Use these meetings as possible networking events as well as research opportunities. See how the power dynamics work and assess who is likely to join you and help expand your group or provide assistance.

If needed, contact Oregon Toxics Alliance to help connect you with others who want to act and to give you more discussion tips and talking points.

Petitioning

A petition is a formal request to the head of a state or federal agency requesting action or challenging a lack of action on a specific issue. Petitions are a great way to gain support and anyone can submit one. Agencies are required to respond to petitions – by either granting or denying action – in a reasonable amount of time. Petitions are also a great tool for community organizing in that they help spread the word about an issue and get individuals involved in bringing about change. Petitions should mention the following key points:

- Who or what is being harmed (a specific neighborhood, school children, a sensitive ecosystem, etc.)
- How the harm is happening
- Why the agency being petitioned has the legal authority to act on the matter
- Potential future issues if a change is not made
- A request for a specific change in the policies/rules/etc.

Included in the **Resources** section is a list of common agencies that have jurisdiction over pesticide issues and to which petitions can be submitted and in the **Appendix** is an example of good petition language.

Chapter 3
Testing and Data Gathering

Labs

If you foresee going to court over a chemical pesticide incident, need accurate, impactful supporting data for a presentation to elected officials, the press or the community, or just want to know what chemicals are present in your local area, it may be helpful to have samples tested in order to document exposures and contamination levels. For this you will need a testing lab. You will need to determine whether you will want to have an environmental (soil, water, etc.) or biological (blood, urine, etc.) test conducted. Certain chemicals can only be detected by specific tests, so make sure to ask the lab you choose which chemicals they can test for and what kinds of samples they will need. Look for labs that use validated methods of analysis (such as those published by the EPA, Pesticide Analytical Manual or the Association of Official Analytical Chemists Manual) and have internal quality assurance programs. The lab should report the data to you in identifiable, useful units, such as parts per million, and should provide you with information on the adequacy of the chosen analysis method, including percent recovery of spiked samples, results of a standard curve and results of assay blanks. Contact information for labs is included in the **Resources** section as are two lists of Oregon Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ORELAP) accredited testing labs. Labs on these two lists meet Department of Health standards for water and other environmental testing.

If you have filed a pesticide exposure complaint with the Oregon Department of Agriculture, or the Pesticide Analytical Response Center, their staff may decide to take some soil, water, biological or vegetation samples for testing. We recommend that, if at all possible, you also have a private lab duplicate the results so that you have control over the data that is collected.

Air Sampling for Pesticide Drift

Off-target chemical drift from pesticide applications is like secondhand smoke – it is silent, and its unseen vapors and particles can move through the air and cause injury to unsuspecting bystanders. Secondhand pesticide drift occurs not only from direct particle fallout, but also from volatilization and re-vaporization, factors that can extend the exposure period from two to ten days.

It is possible to take air samples to detect pesticide drift. Air sampling can be an important way to prove that pesticides are moving off-target, potentially harming nearby people, wildlife and property. One way to collect air samples is to use a Drift Catcher is an air sampling device developed by Pesticide Action Network North America (PANNA).

A Drift Catcher collects ambient air samples for analysis to determine the concentration of pesticides present in the air. Sampling done with a Drift Catcher follows standard National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health protocols. A Drift Catcher can collect data for studies that show presence or absence of pesticides in a specific location; document how long pesticides remain in the air after the initial application; document levels of pesticides in the air for comparison to Reference Exposure Levels set by the EPA (doses below which no adverse effects are anticipated); document the relationship between distance from application site and concentration of pesticide presence in the air. A Drift Catcher is better at detecting insecticides than herbicides, although there are some herbicides that can be detected through this type of air sampling. You must have a collection site that is fairly close to the spray area and has access to electricity. Results from your project can be posted on the PANNA website, where you can also view the results of other completed projects. There is a training session for Drift Catcher operators. The device itself does not test for the presence of pesticides – the collected air samples must be analyzed by the PANNA lab or another experienced lab. Further information regarding the Drift Catcher program can be found at the PANNA website and in PANNA's comprehensive guide "Organizing a Drift Campaign", referenced throughout this guide.

Testing Water

If you are concerned about pesticide levels in drinking or other waters, both private labs and some government agencies can provide testing. The most commonly used tests are for nitrates, bacteria, total organic carbon (TOC) and total organic halides (TOX). These tests can detect wide ranges of frequently used pesticides, but it is always advisable to check with the tester to make sure that the tests they will use can detect the pesticides most used in your area and about which you are most concerned. See the list of ORELAP labs, linked to in the **Resources** section.

Assessing State Pesticide Pollution

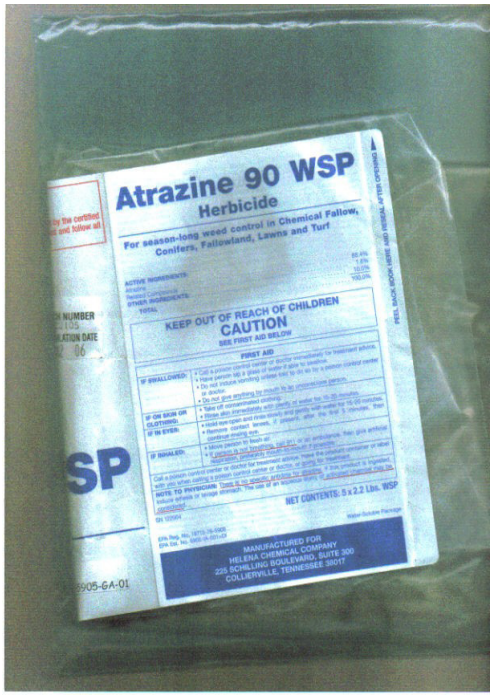
Look for transportation spills, accidents at production facilities and storage sites, reported poisonings, mixing and loading spills, lists of contaminated sites reported and/or scheduled for cleanup, or wildlife poisonings reported by the Department of Fish and Wildlife or other similar agency.

Photographing and Documenting Incidents

Photos and video of a spray incident and/or its effects can be invaluable as support for your argument that pesticides are an issue that should be at the forefront of the community's and policy makers' concerns. If you can, take both "before" AND "after" shots of the area being treated. During the application, try to get photos of who is doing the application (company logos, license plates, etc.), what they are using (labels, equipment, etc.), how the treatment is being applied and where the

application is happening (include street signs, landmarks, mile posts, etc.). If it is an aerial application, be sure to document both the aerial equipment (plane, helicopter, etc.) and the area being sprayed (preferrably in the same shot), to give your documentation context. Without this context, the aerial spray could be occurring over any random area and the footage would be useless as support for your case against the action. Be sure to also note the date and time of each photo or video.

Much pesticide damage to plants occurs over time, so take many photos of the same areas days and weeks later to show how the effects have accumulated and grown. It is often helpful to include a pencil, ruler or other small object to provide scale and a point of reference for how the damage has grown over time. Sometimes it will be beneficial to look for less obvious evidence of chemical pesticide use, such as droplets on cars or playground equipment. It is also extremely important to take care that you do not sacrifice your own health and safety in the pursuit of photographic evidence. If you will be documenting the application itself be sure to wear protective gear, take other necessary precautions and avoid exposure to drift and volatilization. Follow all legal rights as well. Do not trespass; if needed obtain permission from landowners to photograph on their land.



The photos in this chapter are examples of good documentation. The first two show both the area sprayed (in these cases highway shoulders) and geographical reference points (Highway 36 at Indian Creek road). The photo to the left shows an empty bag of Atrazine, proving the chemical was used. (These photos are each from separate instances.)

Chapter 4
Reporting and Enforcement

Reporting Pesticide Adverse Human Health Effects

In the state of Oregon (as well as in Washington and California) pesticide illness reporting is legally mandated for physicians who treat suspected or confirmed pesticide exposures. Should an incident involving pesticides cause adverse human health effects, immediately seek medical attention by calling either poison control or a hospital. Try to have as much information about the particular pesticides and chemicals involved so that you can be helped in the most safe and effective ways. It is imperative that you get a medical opinion if you want your complaint be taken seriously. For example, the Oregon Pesticide Exposure, Safety and Tracking Program in the Department of Human Services (PEST) won't investigate unless there has been a visit or consultation with a medical professional. Don't be concerned if you think your symptoms are "minor" – pesticide poisoning can resemble the flu and may include any or all of the following "minor" symptoms: headache, muscle aches, sore throat, fatigue, stomach pains, swelling, rashes, skin irritations, eye irritation, heart palpitations, coughing, wheezing, excitability. Taken singly, a symptom may not seem important to you, but considered in the possibility of a pesticide exposure, may prove to be very important. You will want to supply as much information about the pesticide incident as possible for the medical professional – date, time, place, duration, weather conditions, wind direction, distance to spray site, pesticide product name, applicator's name, purpose of the spray, type of chemical (is it insecticide or herbicide), etc.

The EPA also funds the National Pesticide Telecommunication Network, a toll-free number individuals can call to receive medical and toxicological advice. Many companies also include toll-free numbers directly on the product and you should be sure to report the incidence to them as well. Often, simply reporting the incidence to a poison control or other agency does not ensure that the report reaches the EPA and is included in their national database. To make sure that this happens, you can personally report your incidence to them using either their standard form (included in the **Appendix**) or your own document. All reports should include the following:

- Who was injured (name, contact information, age, gender, and other relevant information such as pregnancy)
- When did the injury occur and when did symptoms arise
- What was the product (including its registration number) and how much was involved
- What were the circumstances of the injury/exposure
- What was the route of exposure (breathing fumes, direct skin contact, etc.)

- Was the exposure accidental or intentional

- What medical care was sought and obtained and what medical opinions were given

- List of symptoms and adverse effects and when they started

- Does the exposed person have pre-existing medical conditions, chemical sensitivity or disabilities

- Results of any lab tests performed

Additionally, please call OTA if you want to discuss a possible complaint under the Americans with Disabilities Act (if the exposed person has a federally identified disability or disease).

Reporting Pesticide Adverse Health Effects in Domestic and Wild Animals

You should also report pesticide adverse effects involving both domestic and wild animals. With domestic animals, report:

- The species and breed of animal affected

- The route of exposure

- What types of adverse effects were seen and their severity

- What treatment the animal received

- Results of any lab tests

- Name(s) and registration number(s) of the pesticide(s) involved

With wild animals, report:

- Species affected and number of individuals per species

- What types of adverse effects were seen and their severity

- The magnitude of the effects (square feet, miles, etc.)

- Application rate per acre

- Results of any lab tests

- Description of habitat

- Distance from treatment site

- Name(s) and registration number(s) of the pesticide(s) used

Incidences involving contamination of ground or surface water and unauthorized residues in food or feed should also be reported to the EPA. An address for submitting these reports

is included in the **Resources** section. In Oregon, use the following table to guide you in choosing an agency to which to report pesticide incidences:

Type of Incident	Agency	Phone	Email
Human Health: Non-Occupational	OR Dept. of Human Services Pesticide Division PEST program	503-731-4111	justin.waltz@state.or.us
Human Health: Occupational	Oregon OSHA	503-378-3272	osha.web@state.or.us
Crop and/or Vegetation Damage	OR Dept. of Agriculture	503-986-4550	info@oda.sate.or.us
	PARC	503-986-6470	
Label Violations	ODA Pesticides Division	503-986-4635	pestx@oda.state.or.us
Water Contamination	OR Dept. of Environmental Quality	503-229-5696	deq.info@deq.state.or.us
Fish and Wildlife Exposure	OR Dept. of Fish and Wildlife	503-947-6000	Odfw.Info@state.or.us

***Special Case: Health Care Providers and Labs: Oregon law requires healthcare providers & laboratories to report all suspected and confirmed pesticide-related diagnoses within 24 hours. Contact the Oregon Department of Human Services Pesticide Division PEST Program or find your local county health department using the Department of Human Services' directory.

In Oregon, you can also report incidences to the Pesticide Analytical Response Center (PARC). Their contact information is included in the **Resources** section. Included in the **Appendix** is a form developed by Beyond Pesticides which can be used to document exposure and serve as a reference when preparing your report for submission.

Enforcement

Submit complaints to and request investigations by Oregon's lead pesticide agency, the Oregon Department of Agriculture Pesticides Division. They are responsible for enforcing FIFRA and may be able to answer a number of questions about the incident. If the state doesn't act within 30 days, take your case to the US EPA. They'll give states 90 days to respond. If there is still no action, the EPA becomes responsible for acting. The EPA has an online form with which to report pesticide violations and lists contact information for reporting these violations in Oregon.

Should you seek litigation and/or legal assistance for further enforcement, feel free to contact OTA for information.

Pesticide incidence complaint reporting and submission can be complicated. Here is a step by step guide to making sure your voice is heard and that you are taken care of safely and timely:

1. Call a medical professional, Poison control (1-800-222-1222) or 911 in an emergency

2. Call OTA – we will help you get started and give you advice about networking

3. Take samples (soil, water, air, clothing, plant materials) immediately; arrange for collection and a lab analysis AND insist that the investigating agency take samples. Keep an extra sample of everything that is collected. All samples should be kept in a freezer until delivered to a lab. See the list of ORELAP labs in the **Resources** section.

4. As soon as possible, file with Oregon Department of Agriculture and PARC (for human/crop exposures)

5. As soon as possible, file with the PEST Program of the Department of Human Services Pesticide Division.

6. If you feel that the exposure was egregious, and you are not satisfied with or don't trust ODA's or DHS's ability to handle your complaint, you may contact the US EPA Region 10 Pesticide Division.

7. Make a personal record of everything that occurred and all of the things you noticed (date and time, wind speed and direction, temperature, dead birds/animals, distance to spray site, human symptoms, time between spray and symptoms, residues of any kind, etc.) .

8. Try to get witnesses or other types of verification.

9. Take photographs or video if applicable.

Chapter 5

Records Requests & the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Getting copies of official documents, pesticide exposure complaints, existing policies, laboratory testing data, etc. can be an important part of the research you may be doing to support your pesticide reform campaign. This process is different at the federal and state levels.

Federal Level

Citizens can request any written records of federal agencies through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), including information necessary for effective understanding of pesticide use and issues and enabling further action. Any individual citizen or community group can make a FOIA request so long as the record being requested is "reasonably described" including specific documents, internal memoranda, labeling information and health and safety data. FOIA requests do not require federal agencies to produce new records or documents; they only apply to existing agency records and information. There is a fee associated with FOIA requests, but it can often be waived. If it can be demonstrated that the information requested will "contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester" then a fee waiver can be applied for. Include full justification information and processes.

The US Department of State recommends including the following information in your request. Other agencies may have varying recommendations, but these are a good starting point:

- Type of record
- Time frame of when the record was created
- Specific subject matter, person or organization
- Offices originating or receiving the record
- Particular event, policy or circumstance that led to the creation of the record
- Reason why you believe the record exists
- If the record involves a contract, include the contract date, number, type and name of contractor

Many pesticide related FOIA requests will be submitted to the EPA. Their website offers many methods for submitting these requests. The EPA also has a page devoted to FOIA within their

site; find it here. This page offers information on fee waivers, a reference guide and links to the online request form. Another EPA page is devoted entirely to *pesticide* related FOIA requests and may be most helpful; find it here. This page offers links that may help you find the information you are looking for without having to submit a FOIA request. Should your request fall under the jurisdiction of a different federal department or agency, refer to the US Department of Justice's website for a comprehensive list of FOIA websites, found here.

State Level

Though FOIA covers only federal agencies, most states have similar programs in place. These are often called "Open Records Acts." Contact your state for further information. The state of Oregon has such a law. This law applies to every "public body," which includes every state officer, agency, department, bureau, board and commission; every county and city governing body, school district, special district, municipal corporation or any board, department, commission, council or agency. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has a website with a variety of resources and information on requesting public records from them – including a fee waiver exemption form. Additionally, a DEQ Public Records Request form is included in the **Appendix**.

Most state pesticide records in Oregon are kept with the Oregon Department of Agriculture, so their FOIA information may prove most helpful. Their website clearly details the process and their expectations of requesters and also provides information on the fee structure and fee waivers. Requests should follow similar guidelines as listed below and can be made either by email, fax or post. This contact information is included in the **Resources** section as well as on their website.

- **Be familiar** with the department from which you are requesting information

- **Be clear** in your request by including the type of record(s) requested, subject matter, approximate date(s), names of businesses and/or people involved and the date by which you hope to obtain the records.

- **Be positive and helpful**. Records requests are completed in addition to the regular workload of government employees and making it easier for them to help you will get faster results

- **Be informed**; if your request is denied, you may file a lawsuit to force public records to be provided to you

The Oregon Attorney General's website also provides a great deal of basic information on the Oregon Open Records Act. Find it here. You can use this information and the DEQ request form and fee waiver exemption form as starting points in your own records requesting process, but be aware that most agencies offer their own forms even though the information included on all will likely be similar. Also be sure that the records you are seeking are the ones needed for research, enforcement, compliance, etc. and that you request them from the correct agency (e.g. don't ask the Department of Justice for roadside highway spray records; these come from ODOT). Don't be overly broad in your search – this can get quite costly! State agencies often refuse to waive fees, and you may be required to pay for staff time, copying, materials, or other associated costs.

Keep copies of your FOIA or State Records Requests and follow-up if you haven't heard back in two weeks. Example records requests are included in the **Appendix**.

Chapter 6
Success Stories

Though it can be difficult to get your message across and take time to see significant action and change, the state of Oregon is rich with stories of positive change with regard to chemical pesticide use and other toxic chemical exposures. These types of change only happen through hard work and dedication.

OPAWG

The Oregon Pesticide Action Workgroup (OPAWG) was formed in 2008 and is led by the Oregon Toxics Alliance. OPAWG is a coalition of over 35 individual and organizational members throughout Oregon who are committed to responding to pesticide issues and concerns in rural communities by providing rural leadership training, community organizing models, and access to agencies and science-based data collection. By problem-solving, taking action and sharing results, OPAWG members are able to replicate their efforts in other communities in order to protect local watersheds, endangered species and human health. OPAWG has three to five ad hoc sub-committees on such issues as Pesticide Use in Roadside Vegetation Management, Pesticides and Human Rights, Forestry Pesticide Spray, Schools and Pesticides, etc. The group and each sub-committee meet on a monthly basis. Meetings are held at the OTA office and members can also teleconference in to these meetings.

OPAWG has accopmplished these projects, and many others:

1. Passed a new school IPM law in 2009 that limits the use of pesticides around school children;

2. Initiated No-Spray or Reduced Pesticides zones on county and state highways in partnership with state and local governments;

3. Pesticide-Free Parks;

4. Stopped forestry timber pesticide sprays;

5. Code changes to tighten up rules governing pesticide businesses' location and safety;

6. Created mapping projects and reports for media and elected officials;

7. Helped many Oregonians dealing with pesticide-related problems and provided networking opportunities

Waldport, Oregon

In May 2010, the city of Waldport, Oregon in Lincoln County adopted a "Last Resort Herbicide Use" policy to effectively ban herbicide use on city property.

Highway 101 "No-Spray" Corridor Concerned Citizens for Clean Air, a community group based in Lincoln County, Oregon, successfully organized to convince ODOT to institute a "No-Spray" pilot project along US Highway 101 between mileposts 142 and 167 (Newport to the Lane County line). The program began in April 2007 and in 2009 was extended through to June 30, 2011. The pilot program will allow ODOT and CCCA to monitor how the area responds after the cessation of chemical herbicide use and to apply their findings to other potential projects.

Highway 36 Oregon Department of Transportation Pesticide Reduction Project

In June of 2010, ODOT issued plans to reduce pesticide use by 60 percent along the 52 highway miles of Highway 36, between Junction City and Mapleton, Oregon. This project came about even though the federal government denied funding and was a direct result of successful community organizing and pressuring the agency.

Forestry Aerial Sprays in western Lane County, Oregon

Community groups have consistently held the attention of the EPA on the topic of pesticide drift and volatilization. The EPA has sent staff to Lane County to investigate and has considered a rule change and accepted public testimony. While only small progress, these community groups, such as the Forestland Dwellers and Pitchfork Rebellion, are effective catalysts, drawing attention to the inadequacy of federal policy on pesticide drift in forested areas and promoting impactful change.

Williams, Oregon: Williams Waterway Project Success

This project established a section of highway 238 as a pesticide and herbicide free zone and maintains roadside vegetation through volunteer mowing days. The project even went so far as to secure liability insurance, permits and safety training for volunteers. Through this volunteer community work, the project has been kept alive and ensured that this part of the highway continues to be pesticide and herbicide free.

Forestland Dwellers Aid Rural Communities

Forestland Dwellers is a community group "acting to protect the health of our families,

neighborhoods, communities, farms, forests, watersheds, and all life from pesticide poisons." They have been able to aid rural communities as well as Oregonians in general by providing spray notices and spray maps on their website.

Lane County Public Works, No spray road maintenance

Pressure from advocacy groups and demands made by citizens led to the adoption of the Lane County "No Spray Policy" for the maintenance of all county roads. The County has not sprayed since 2005. The County also established a citizens advisory committee called the Vegetation Management Advisory Committee (VMAC) which meets monthly with Public Works staff to track policy and implementation of the vegetation management plan. Learn more about the program here.

Pesticide Free Parks

Many cities (including Eugene, Portland, Springfield and others), in response to citizen complaints and requests have instituted Pesticide-Free Parks programs.

Lindsay, California Drift Catcher Success

In 2006, residents in Lindsay, California used PANNA's Drift Catcher to successfully prove air contamination at unsafe levels. They partnered with community groups and other organizations to prepare a public announcement, calling on county and state agencies to take action to remedy the contamination.

Buffer-Zone Victory in Tulare County, CA

The farmworker community of Tulare County, after a long struggle, won a 2008 campaign to institute protective quarter-mile-wide buffer zones preventing some of the most dangerous pesticide applications from drifting onto nearby schools and residential areas. Tulare County ranks second in California in the power of its agricultural industry, so this victory is especially significant. It shows the true success that community organizing can have, even when challenging strong industries or other powerful opponents.

Successful Drift Sampling at Florida Schools

Pesticide sampling in the air around schools in Florida was shown to contain significant levels of pesticides. Community groups have used this data in efforts to try to bring about change. Follow the story on the PANNA website.

Glossary

General Terms

Contaminants are often a part of the pesticide product and responsible for product hazards. Dioxin and DDT have been identified as contaminants, which have not been purposefully added but are a function of the production process.

Defoliants cause leaves or other foliage to drop from a plant, usually to facilitate harvest.

Dessiccants promote drying of living tissues, such as unwanted plant tops.

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) provides the basis for regulation, sale, distribution and use of pesticides in the United States. FIFRA authorizes the EPA to review and register pesticides for specified uses. The EPA also has the authority to suspend or cancel the registration of a pesticide if subsequent information shows that continued use would pose unreasonable risks. Some key elements of FIFRA include.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) is a law ensuring public access to U.S. government records. FOIA carries a presumption of disclosure; the burden is on the government - not the public - to substantiate why information may not be released. Upon written request, agencies of the United States government are required to disclose those records, unless they can be lawfully withheld from disclosure under one of nine specific exemptions in the FOIA. This right of access is ultimately enforceable in federal court.

Fungicides are chemical substances that destroy or inhibit the growth of fungi.

Insect Growth Regulators disrupt the molting, maturity from pupal stage to adult, or other life processes of insects.

Insecticides are chemical substances used to kill insects.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an environmentally sensitive approach to pest management that relies on a combination of common-sense practices for long-term prevention and/or suppression of pest problems. The goal of IPM methodology is to prioritize those pest control options which represent the least possible risk of damage to the environment, non-target species and humans. In addition, IPM uses techniques such as monitoring for pest presence and establishing treatment threshold levels, using non-chemical practices to make the habitat less conducive to pest development, improving sanitation, and employing mechanical and physical controls to manage pests.

IPM prioritizes non-chemical methods or the use of least toxic chemicals as a last resort. It

should be noted that most IPM policies do not prohibit pesticide use outright. Chemical pesticides that pose the least possible hazard and are effective in a manner that minimizes risks to people (especially children), property, and the environment, may be considered for use, but only after careful monitoring indicates they are needed according to pre-established guidelines and treatment thresholds.

The IPM approach can be applied to both agricultural, forestry and non-agricultural settings, such as the home, landscaping, garden, vegetation management sites, and the workplace.

Herbicides are chemical substances used to destroy or inhibit the growth of plants, especially weeds.

Metabolites are breakdown products that form when a pesticide is used in the environment and mixes with air, water, soil or living organisms. Often the metabolite is more hazardous than the parent pesticide.

Pesticides are any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest. The term pesticide also applies to herbicides, fungicides, and various other substances used to control pests. Pesticides also include plant regulators, defoliants and desiccants.

Plant Growth Regulators are substances (excluding fertilizers or other plant nutrients) that alter the expected growth, flowering, or reproduction rate of plants.

The Precautionary Principle states that when an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically. In this context the proponent of an activity, rather than the public, should bear the burden of proof. The process of applying the precautionary principle must be open, informed and democratic and must include potentially affected parties. It must also involve an examination of the full range of alternatives, including the no action alternative.

Toxicological Terms

Acute Effects are severe symptoms which develop rapidly and often subside after the exposure stops (e.g. vomiting).

Acute Toxicity is toxicity that develops soon after a single large dose is administered.

Bioaccumulation is a process in which chemicals are retained in fatty body tissue and increase in concentration over time.

Biomagnification is the increase of tissue accumulation in species higher in the natural food chain as contaminated food species are eaten.

Carcinogens cause malignant tumors (cancers), which are collections of cells that multiply uncontrollably, invade other tissues, and can metastasize to, or colonize, other parts of the body.

Chronic Toxicity is toxicity resulting from a low level exposure over a long period of time. Symptoms may not appear until much later (e.g. cancer).

Endocrine Disruptors are synthetic chemicals that either mimic or block hormones and disrupt normal functions when absorbed into the body. This disruption can happen through altering normal hormone levels, halting or stimulating the production of hormones, or changing the way hormones travel through the body, thus affecting the functions that these hormones control. Known human endocrine disruptors include: diethylstilbesterol (the drug DES), dioxin, PCBs, DDT, and some other pesticides. Many chemicals, particularly pesticides and plasticizers, are suspected endocrine disruptors based on limited animal studies.

LC50 is the "lethal concentration at the 50th percentile." This is the concentration which will kill half of the test animals to which it is administered. The smaller the LC50, the more toxic the compound.

LD50 is the "lethal dose at the 50th percentile." This is the dose which will kill half of the test animals to which it is administered. It is used to compare the acute toxicity of chemicals, since the smaller the LD50, the more toxic the compound. Neither LC50 nor LD50 reflect the effects of long term exposure.

Mutagens are agents that can alter genes. These changes can then be perpetuated in subsequent cell divisions. Most mutations are detrimental and most are lethal.

Oncogens cause tumors, both benign (non-fatal) and malignant.

Teratogens are agents which can cause birth defects.

Chemical Terms

Biopesticides are certain types of pesticides derived from such natural materials as animals, plants, bacteria, and certain minerals. For example, canola oil and baking soda have pesticidal applications and are considered biopesticides. At the end of 2001, there were approximately 195 registered biopesticide active ingredients and 780 products. Biopesticides fall into three major classes:

- *Microbial pesticides* consist of a microorganism (e.g., a bacterium, fungus, virus or protozoan) as the active ingredient. Microbial pesticides can control many different kinds of pests, although each separate active ingredient is relatively specific for its target pest[s]. For example, there are fungi that control certain weeds, and other fungi that kill specific insects. Bt is a common microbial pesticide.

- *Plant-Incorporated-Protectants (PIPs)* are pesticidal substances that plants produce from genetic material that has been added to the plant. For example, scientists can take the gene for the Bt pesticidal protein, and introduce the gene into the plant's own genetic material. Then the plant, instead of the Bt bacterium, manufactures the substance that destroys the pest.

- *Biochemical pesticides* are naturally occurring substances that control pests by non-toxic mechanisms. Biochemical pesticides include substances, such as insect sex pheromones, that interfere with mating, as well as various scented plant extracts that attract insect pests to traps.

Carbamate pesticides affect the nervous system by disrupting an enzyme that regulates acetylcholine (AchE), a neurotransmitter. Carbamates can be just as toxic as OPs, but the AchE inhibition is more transient. Examples: carbaryl (SevinTM), bendiocarb (FicamTM).

Hydrocarbons include any chemical compound containing hydrogen and carbon. Examples: methane, chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides.

Organic Chemicals are made of carbon, hydrogen and/or oxygen. Although this branch of chemistry started out looking at "natural" chemicals like sugars and enzymes, today the term embraces synthetic as well as "natural" chemicals. Examples: carbon tetrachloride, DDT, ethanol, sucrose, estrogen. Only the last three are biologically derived.

Organochlorine pesticides contain carbon, hydrogen and chlorine, and are very persistent in the environment. Examples: vinyl chloride (made into plastic), DDT, chlordane.

Organophosphate insecticides (OPs) contain phosphorus and affect the nervous system by disrupting the enzyme that regulates acetylcholine, a neurotransmitter. Most organophosphates are insecticides. They were developed during the early 19th century, but their effects on insects, which are similar to their effects on humans, were discovered in 1932. Some are very poisonous (they were used in World War II as nerve agents). However, they usually are not persistent in the environment. Examples: diazinon (SpectracideTM), malathion (CythionTM).

Pyrethroid Pesticides were developed as a synthetic version of the naturally occurring pesticide pyrethrin, which is found in chrysanthemums. They have been modified to increase their stability in the environment. Some synthetic pyrethroids are toxic to the nervous system. These are an example of a botanical pesticide; others include rotenone and sabadilla.

Labeling Terms

Active Ingredients are the chemicals or substance components of a pesticide product that can kill, repel, attract, mitigate or control a pest or that act as a plant growth regulator, desiccant, or nitrogen stabilizer. These are usually the only component listed on the pesticide label.

Common Names are simpler names given to a chemical by the EPA for easier recognition.

EPA Registration Numbers indicate that the pesticide product has been registered and its label was approved for sale by the EPA.

Inert Ingredients are mixed into pesticides products as a carrier or sticking agent, and are often as toxic as the active ingredient. Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, manufacturers are not required to list what these inert ingredients actually are.

Signal Words indicate the level of toxicity of a certain pesticide product. There are four signal words, listed in order of increasing toxicity, with "caution" being least toxic and "danger – poison" being the most toxic.

- "Caution" means the pesticide product is slightly toxic if eaten, absorbed through the skin, inhaled, or it causes slight eye or skin irritation.

- "Warning" indicates the pesticide product is moderately toxic if eaten, absorbed through the skin, inhaled, or it causes moderate eye or skin irritation.

- "Danger" means that the pesticide product is highly toxic by at least one route of exposure and can cause severe eye damage or skin irritation.

- "Danger – Poison" means that the pesticide product is highly toxic by any route of entry into the body.

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS CONTACTS

Register Guard (Eugene)

Mailbag
PO Box 10188
Eugene, OR 97440
Fax: (541) 338-2828
rgletters@registerguard.com
(250 word limit; include full name, address and phone)

For RG "Guest Viewpoints" (Op-Eds) review guidelines on website and submit to:
Jackman Wilson
PO Box 10188
Eugene, OR 97440
Jack.wilson@registerguard.com

Eugene Weekly

Letters to the Editor, Eugene Weekly
1251 Lincoln
Eugene, OR 97401
editor@eugeneweekly.com
(250 word limit; include full name, address and phone)

The Oregonian (Portland)

Letters to the editor, The Oregonian
1320 SW Broadway
Portland, OR 97201
letters@news.oregonian.com
Fax: (503) 294-4193
(150 word limit; include full address and daytime phone)

The Statesman Journal (Salem)
Letters to the Editor
Email form on website; 200 word limit

OREGON GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

Oregon Poison Center Hotline
1-800-222-1222

Oregon Dept. of Agriculture, Pesticides Division
635 Capitol Street
Salem, OR 97301
(503) 986-4635
pestx@oda.state.or.us

Oregon Public Health Services
800 NE Oregon Street
Portland, OR 97232
(503) 731-4000
ohd.info@state.or.us

US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101
(206) 553-0149
Email via website form

Common Agencies for Petitioning:

Oregon Dept. of Agriculture, Pesticides Division
635 Capitol Street
Salem, OR 97301
(503) 986-4635

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
811 SW 6th Avenue
Portland, OR 97204
(503) 229-5696

Oregon Department of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97310
(503) 945-7200

Oregon Pesticide Exposure and Safety Tracking (PEST)
800 NE Oregon Street, #640
Portland, OR 97232
(971) 673-0977

TESTING AND DATA GATHERING CONTACTS

List of ORELAP accredited environmental testing labs

List of ORELAP accredited water testing labs

Synergistic Pesticide Laboratory LLC
15365 Beaverton Creek Court
Beaverton, OR 97006
(503) 641-0500
info@synpestlab.com

Stu Turner, forensic agronomist
(509) 539-5524
agforensic@aol.com

Drift Catcher
c/o Karl Tupper
Pesticide Action Network
415 9811771 ext. 318
karl@panna.org

REPORTING AND ENFORCEMENT CONTACTS

EPA Region 10
(206) 553-0505

National Pesticide Telecommunication Network (NPTN):
1-800-858-7378

Reporting incidences of ground or surface water contamination and food or feed residues:
Document Processing Desk 6(a)(2)
Environmental Protection Agcy.
Office of Pesticide Prgms 7504C
401 M Street SW
Washington, DC 20460

EPA Oregon Incidence Reporting Site

Oregon Pesticide Analytical Response Center (PARC):
503.986.6470
parc@oda.state.or.us

RECORDS REQUESTS AND FOIA CONTACTS

U.S. EPA
HQ FOIA Operations Staff (2822T)
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460
Fax (202) 566-2147
Hq.foia@epa.gov

EPA Online Form

Oregon DEQ Public Records Requests

Oregon Department of Agriculture
Information Office
635 Capitol St NE
Salem, OR 97301-2532
Fax: 503-986-4750
info@oda.state.or.us

MISCELLANEOUS INFO

Beyond Pesticides Toxics Pesticides Factsheets

Beyond Pesticides Chemical Information pages

IPM Institute of North America
4510 Regent St.
Madison, Wisconsin 53705 USA
Phone: 608-232-1410
Fax: 608-232-1440
info@ipminstitute.org

IPMopedia.org

Model Laws and Model Policies and Programs:

Oregon SB 637
Oregon HB 2212
Canada ban on lawn pesticides

ODOT Toll-Free Herbicide Information Line: 1-888-996-8080

ODOT Citizen's Representative: 1-888-275-6368

Pesticide Labels and Material Safety Data Sheets Database

COMMUNITY GROUPS IN OREGON

Oregon Toxics Alliance
PO Box 1106
Eugene, OR 97440
(541) 465-8860
info@oregontoxics.org

Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste
Oregon's Farmworker Union (PCUN)
300 Young St.
Woodburn, OR 97071
(503) 982-0243
Email form on website

Unete: Center for Farmworker Advocacy
Southern Oregon
33 N Central Ave #416
PO Box 8408
Medford, OR 97501
(541) 245-1625
unete@nu-world.com

Concerned Citizens for Clean Air
PO Box 264
Seal Rock, OR 97376
(541) 563-6672
info@concernedcitizensforcleanair.org

Environment and Human Rights Advisory
PO Box 927
Yachats, OR 97498
Email form on website
http://environmentandhumanrights.org/index.htm

Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP)
PO Box 1393
Eugene OR 97440
(541) 344-5044
Email form on website

Sierra Club Oregon Chapter
1821 SE Ankeny St.
Portland, OR 97214
(503) 238-6281
oregon.chapter@sierraclub.org

Xerces Society
4828 SE Hawthorne Blvd.
Portland, Oregon 97215
(503) 232-6639
info@xerces.org

Forestland Dwellers
PO Box 5954
Eugene, OR 97405
(541) 342-8332
help@forestlanddwellers.org

Appendix

In this section, you will find links, helpful douments and example materials to give you more information and guidance throughout the community organizing and pesticide incidence reporting process.

Op-Ed Example - Lisa Arkin of OTA in the Register Guard

Organizing a Drift Campaign - PANNA & CPR - Example Letter to the Editor, Letter to an Elected Official and other helpful documents

Form 6(a)(2) - Voluntary Industry Reporting Forms and Submission Instruction

Beyond Pesticides Incident Reporting Form

Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality Complaint Form

What You Need to Know About Reading a Pesticide Label - Penn State

What You Can Do

Report Pesticide Incidents: Report pesticide drift and pesticide exposure each and every time it happens.

Record Everything: Write down all of the details of the exposure before you forget anything. Good information is essential for assessing the severity of an exposure.

Organize Your Community: Talk to others who may have been exposed and encourage them to report their exposure too. Put pressure on local agencies to make sure that your case is dealt with! Call local community organizations for assistance.

See a Doctor: If you are experiencing symptoms related to pesticide exposure, see a doctor as soon as possible. If you feel seriously ill, call 911 or have someone take you to an emergency clinic.

To report pesticide problems please call:
Oregon Toxics Alliance
541.683.0877

About Oregon Toxics Alliance (OTA)

OTA is working to reduce the costs borne by agricultural workers as a result of their exposure to pesticides.

Sobre Oregon Toxics Alliance (OTA)

OTA trabaja para reducir los costos que asumen los trabajadores agrícolas como resultado de su exposición a los plaguicidas.

Pesticide Exposure Hotline:

Oregon Toxics Alliance
541.683.0877

For More Information:

Pesticide Action Network North America (PANNA)
http://www.panna.org

Californians for Pesticide Reform (CPR)
http://www.pesticidereform.org

This project is a partnership with
Oregon Farmworker Ministry
2710 NE 14th Ave.
Portland, OR 97212

http://www.nfwm.org/oregon

Oregon Toxics Alliance
P.O. Box 1106
Eugene, OR 97440

www.oregontoxics.org

Pesticides, Farmworkers and Families

OREGON TOXICS ALLIANCE

What are pesticides?

Pesticides are chemicals that are used in homes and in agricultural fields to kill weeds, insects, fungi and other pests.

Why are pesticides dangerous?

Pesticides are poisons, and many of them pose serious health risks to people. The application of pesticides on farms and in homes is extremely common, so farmworkers and their familiees face the threat of pesticide exposure on a daily basis.

How do I know if I've been exposed?

Pesticide poisoning can produce acute effects that resemble flu or allergy symptoms; these include but are not limited to nausea, eye irritation, headaches, skin rash, disorientation, difficulty breathing, and asthma attacks. Long term exposure to pesticides can lead to nerve damage, reproductive harm, and cancer . Exposure to some pesticides may also result in birth defects.

What is *Pesticide Drift*?

Many pesticides are applied as gas, mist or dust. These small particles can travel easily through the air and settle on areas outside of the target. This is called pesticide drift. Wind and heat can cause pesticide drift to occur days after the application.

Can I see or smell drift?

If you see pesticide application by plane, helicopter, tractor or sprayer, pesticide drift may be noticeable as a cloud of spray or dust, or as an unpleasant odor. However, at other times you may not see or smell anything. Some pesticides can harm you even if you don't notice them.

Why children are more vulnerable to pesticides.

Children are especially vulnerable to pesticides because their bodies are still developing. Certain chemicals found in pesticides can block a child's body from absorbing the nutrients it needs to grow properly. Additionally, a child does not have a fully developed excretory system and therefore cannot remove toxins from the body as well as an adult can.

In relation to body weight, children eat and drink more than adults do. This means that they have an increased vulnerability to pesticides that might be present in food and water. Children also breathe faster than adults, which means that they can inhale airborne pesticides at a higher rate.

Activities like playing on the floor, contacting a parent's work clothes and putting objects in their mouths further increase children's exposure to pesticides at home and in lawns and gardens.

Things you can do to protect your family:

- **If you work around pesticides, change out of your work clothes when you get home and wash before playing with your child or preparing food for them.**
- **Wash work clothes separately from other family members' clothing.**
- **Try not to use pesticides inside the home or garden, especially in areas where children are likely to play.**
- **Wash your children's outdoor toys periodically, especially if you live in an area that is near an agricultural field where pesticides may be sprayed.**
- **Bring kids and their toys inside if you notice pesticide drift in your neighborhood.**

What to do when exposed:

- Change out of your contaminated clothes and shower with warm water and soap.
- Write down the name of the pesticide you were exposed to, as well as any acute symptoms you are experiencing. Call 541.683.0877 to leave a message with your information.
- Contact a physician with the information you've recorded. If you feel seriously ill, seek immediate medical help.

Qué puede hacer

Informe el incidente de exposición a plaguicidas: Reporte la dispersión de plaguicidas y la exposición cada vez que suceda.

Lleve un registro de todo: Escriba todo lo que observe con detalles sobre la exposición antes que se olvide. La buena información es esencial para evaluar la gravedad de una exposición.

Organice a su comunidad: Hable con otras personas que han sido expuestas y aliéntelas a informar también sobre sus exposiciones. Presione a las agencias locales para asegurarse que su caso ha sido atendido! Llame a organizaciones locales comunitarias para pedir ayuda.

Consulte con un médico: Si usted tiene síntomas relacionados con la exposición a plaguicidas, vea a un médico lo antes posible. Si se siente muy enfermo llame al 911 o pídale a alguien que lo lleve a un centro médico de emergencia.

Para informar problemas por plaguicidas llame al:
Oregon Toxics Alliance
541.683.0877

Sobre Oregon Toxics Alliance (OTA)

OTA trabaja para reducir los costos que asumen los trabajadores agrícolas como resultado de su exposición a los plaguicidas.

About Oregon Toxics Alliance (OTA)

OTA is working to reduce the costs borne by agricultural workers as a result of their exposure to pesticides.

Para informar problemas por plaguicidas llame al:
Oregon Toxics Alliance
541.683.0877

Para más información:
Pesticide Action Network North America (PANNA)
http://www.panna.org/

Californians for Pesticide Reform (CPR)
http://www.pesticidereform.org/

Este proyecto es una asociación con
Oregon Farm Worker Ministry
2710 NE 14th Ave.
Portland, OR 97212
http://www.nfwm.org/oregon

Oregon Toxics Alliance
P.O. Box 1106
Eugene, OR 97440

www.oregontoxics.org

Los plaguicidas, los agricultores y sus familias

OREGON TOXICS ALLIANCE

¿Qué son los plaguicidas?

Los plaguicidas con sustancias químicas usadas en los hogares y en los campos agrícolas para matar las malezas, insectos, hongos y otras plagas.

¿Por qué son peligrosos los plaguicidas?

Los plaguicidas son venenosos, y muchos de ellos ponen en riesgo la salud de las personas. La aplicación de plaguicidas en los campos agrícolas y en los hogares es muy frecuente, por lo tanto los trabajadores agrícolas como sus familias se ven amenazadas por la exposición a plaguicidas diariamente.

¿Cómo puedo saber si he estado expuesto?

El envenenamiento por plaguicidas puede producir efectos agudos que pueden tener síntomas muy parecidos a una gripe o de una alergia. Estos síntomas incluyen -pero no se limitan a- náuseas, irritación de los ojos, dolores de cabeza, irritación de la piel, sensación de desorientación, dificultad para respirar y ataques de asma. La exposición por tiempo prolongado puede causar daños en el sistema nervioso, en la capacidad reproductiva y cáncer. La exposición a algunos tipos de plaguicidas puede también resultar en defectos congénitos.

¿Qué es la dispersión de plaguicidas?

Muchos plaguicidas se aplican en forma de gas, en forma de aerosol o en polvo. Estas pequeñas partículas pueden trasladarse fácilmente a través del aire y accidentalmente afectar áreas fuera de la zona donde se espera que actúen. Esto se llama dispersión de plaguicidas o en inglés 'pesticide drift'.

¿Puedo oler o ver los plaguicidas dispersados?

Cuando usted ve la aplicación de plaguicidas por avión, helicóptero o tractor, la dispersión de plaguicidas puede verse como una nube de aerosol o polvo suspendido, o sentir un mal olor. Sin embargo, a veces puede ser que no sienta ni vea nada. Algunos plaguicidas pueden causarle daño aun si usted no se da cuenta.

Porque los niños son más vulnerables a los plaguicidas

Los niños son especialmente vulnerables a los plaguicidas porque sus cuerpos aun están desarrollándose. Algunas sustancias químicas encontradas en los plaguicidas pueden bloquear la absorción de nutrientes en el cuerpo que los niños necesitan para crecer sanamente. Adicionalmente, un niño o niña no tiene desarrollado todavía su sistema de excreción, por lo tanto no puede eliminar las toxinas de su cuerpo tan bien como puede hacerlo un adulto.

Con relación al peso corporal, los niños pueden proporcionalmente comer y beber más que los adultos. Esto quiere decir que ellos tienen una mayor vulnerabilidad a los plaguicidas que se encuentran presentes en los alimentos y bebidas. Los niños también respiran más rápido que los adultos, lo cual quiere decir que pueden inhalar mayores niveles de plaguicidas que pueden encontrarse en el aire.

Las actividades tales como jugar en el suelo, contactar la ropa de trabajo de sus padres y poner objetos en sus bocas pueden aumentar aun más la exposición de plaguicidas en el hogar, en los jardines y en el césped.

Cosas que puede hacer para proteger a su familia:

- **Si usted trabaja cerca de plaguicidas, cámbiese su ropa de trabajo al llegar a su casa y lávese bien las manos con agua y jabón antes de jugar con sus hijos o de preparar sus alimentos.**
- **Trate de no usar plaguicidas dentro de su casa. Si lo hace, no lo use en las áreas donde sus hijos puedan jugar.**
- **Lave los juguetes de sus hijos con frecuencia, sobre todo los que usa fuera de la casa, especialmente si usted vive en un área cercana a campos de cultivo donde se apliquen plaguicidas.**
- **Traiga a sus hijos y a sus juguetes dentro de la casa si usted percibe la dispersión de plaguicidas en su vecindario.**

Qué puede hacer si usted está expuesto a plaguicidas en casa:

- Cámbiese su ropa contaminada y tome una ducha con agua tibia y jabón.
- Escriba el nombre del plaguicida al que ha sido expuesto, y también los síntomas agudos que sienta.
- Contacte a su médico y déle la información que ha escrito.
- Si se siente muy enfermo, busque asistencia médica inmediatamente.

BEYOND PESTICIDES
701 E Street, SE ▪ Washington DC 20003
202-543-5450 phone ▪ 202-543-4791 fax
info@beyondpesticides.org ▪ www.beyondpesticides.org

The Importance of Editorials and Engaging Editorial Boards

Meeting with an editorial board can help your message receive the attention it deserves. Outreach to editorial boards can result not only in editorials that take a progressive stance on an issue; they can also affect news coverage throughout the paper. The single best way to influence the content of editorials is conducting a briefing with editorial boards, although sending materials and following up by phone can also be helpful. Opinion editorials (op-eds) are an extremely powerful and cost-effective way to both educate a large number of readers about your issues, and influence policymakers. Policymakers and their aides read op-eds, which is why securing favorable editorials and meeting with the editorial board on your issue is essential, particularly for campaigns targeting legislation. Good editorials also help establish an organization as an authority.

1) **Do your research**: Review the paper's stance and coverage on your issue first. The editorial board will appreciate your familiarity, knowledge and ability to discuss angles that haven't been covered yet.

2) **Target the right paper and writer**: Most editorial boards have one head editor and a handful of writers, each focusing on issues like the environment, health and policy. If it's a national story, you may be able to work with the appropriate editorial writers to find local angles.

3) **Get to know the gatekeeper**: The editorial board and some individual writers have assistants. Introduce yourself and get as much information as you can about the best way to approach them.

4) **Send a formal pitch**: This 1-2 page letter should clearly state the editorial position you want the board to take and communicate. Tips: create a sense of timeliness and urgency, and use credible spokespersons. If your spokespeople are not well known, establish their background and what makes them experts.

5) **Provide persuasive documentation to bolster your arguments**: Include in your information at one or more fact sheets that immediately highlight your issue and lay out the facts that support your perspective. Encourage editorial boards to review reports and background information that detail recommendations on the issue. Only use documents with solid analysis behind them.

6) **Be persistent**: Follow up with friendly phone calls, suggest meeting dates, and send background information by mail with a personal note. It can take a couple months to secure an editorial. As with reporters, always be pleasant no matter what they write.

Sources: 20/20 Vision http://www.2020vision.org/resources/r_activists.htm
Fenton Communications http://www.beyondpesticides.org/how-to/media

MAKE A CONNECTION

PRESS RELEASE CHECKLIST

GETTING STARTED

- What are the main messages?
- What is the angle? Think like a reporter.
- Who is my target audience? Where does my message need to go?

HEADLINE

- Your Headline should **(i)** Contain a single point **(ii)** Be factual and free of hype
- Use the active voice and the present tense.
  Target length = 8 -10 words - try to fit it all on one single line

SUB-TITLE / SUB-HEAD

- Amplify headline or introduce one additional key point.
- Don't drop the sub-title – it's a great tool.
  Target length = 14 words using one complete sentence

LEAD PARAGRAPH

- The lead should contain the key message of the release and take only 30 seconds to read aloud.
- Find ways to grab attention! Provide traditional who/what/where/when/why/how information later in the text.
- Don't load the lead with background material – save that for boilerplates and editors' notes.
- Do repeat information from your title – some journalists go straight to the lead.
- The lead should develop and breathe life into your headline and sub-head. Ask yourself - What's in it for the reader?
  Target length = 25 words

BODY TEXT

- **Keep it conversational – read your work aloud**
- Use short words, short sentences and short paragraphs (average 42 words).
- Avoid passive sentences wherever possible.
- **Use the strong** language of verbs and nouns and steer away from fluffy adjectives.
- Spell out acronyms, translate buzz words and local insider usage - push detailed explanations to editors' notes.
- Break up text into bullets or sub headings when possible - this will make it more palatable to the reader.
  Remember - Good writing is deleting and re-writing, over and over again.

QUOTATIONS

- Don't just repeat the main point in different words - your quotes should amplify and animate the message.
- Try to formulate your quotes using anecdotes or illustrative examples.
- Make short memorable bytes not a series of runaway sentences.
- Give the name & title of the spokesperson once - thereafter use the surname only, avoiding use of Dr, Mr, Ms.
- Read your quote aloud. Does it sound like something someone might say?

DISTRIBUTION

- **Timeliness (i)** Announce it when it happens **(ii)** Link it with an event **(iii)** Tie it to a trend

Source: http://www.youthactionnet.org/toolkit/communicate.cfm

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

STATION COVER LETTER

March 29, 2005

Station Name
Contact Person
Address
City, State Zip

Attention getting opening sentence or paragraph Highlight timeliness and sense of urgency

Dear Mr./Ms. Contact:

Spring is here! And along with spring comes lawn season.

Establish credibility of message

A major question for the people who plan lawn and field maintenance at our schools and day care centers concerns the safety of the lawn care products used where our children spend so much of their day. As mentioned in the enclosed PSAs, the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Academy of Science have expressed concern about the dangers pesticides pose to our kids and the need to minimize their exposure to these products.

State the problem and solution

As the evidence mounts about the impact pesticides can have on children, new methods are needed for maintaining lawns and fields on school and day care grounds. Fortunately, there are products and techniques that can be implemented by schools and day care centers to avoid exposing children to the hazards inherent in most weed and pest management products—hazards that include cancer, endocrine disruption, and nervous and immune system disorders.

"Mainstream" the message in familiar terms.

The enclosed PSAs have been designed to educate parents and school administrators about the problems that arise with the use of pesticides around children. The PSAs also include a phone number where your listeners can get complete information on how to make school and day care grounds safer. Just as with fire safety, gun safety, and drug use prevention, finding alternatives to lawn pesticide use around our schools and day care centers is an effort that will protect our children from a preventable problem.

Would you help us get the word out by scheduling our PSAs in your regular PSA rotation? The enclosed CD contains a :30 and :15 version of our "Safer Schools" PSA. I've also enclosed two live scripts, in case you only do live PSAs. Lawn season is beginning, making this a time-sensitive matter. We'd appreciate it if you could fit our PSA into your rotation as soon as possible, hopefully throughout the month of April and through the end of the school year. Thank you very much for your time and consideration of our request.

Politely ask for a commitment

Sincerely,

Susan Riedeman
member, Beyond Pesticides

Enclosure: PSA CD

West Eugene Residents Want Clean Air

I join West Eugene residents and all concerned citizens in urging Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) to do its job in protecting local air quality and the public health by:

1. **Requiring the use of <u>maximum air pollution control technology</u> for the proposed Seneca cogeneration power plant.**
2. **Requiring that <u>all emissions</u> from the Seneca cogeneration power plant are reported in accordance with the Eugene Toxics Right to Know program and in the interest of monitoring greenhouse gas contributions.**
3. **Encouraging Seneca and other emissions contributors in West Eugene to help fund an air toxics monitor so that it will be possible to study what we are breathing.**

Print Name	Street Address	E-mail (Optional for updates)
Print Name	Street Address	E-mail
Print Name	Street Address	E-mail
Print Name	Street Address	E-mail
Print Name	Street Address	E-mail
Print Name	Street Address	E-mail
Print Name	Street Address	E-mail
Print Name	Street Address	E-mail
Print Name	Street Address	E-mail
Print Name	Street Address	E-mail

Date: _____ Zip Code: _____

The information you provide <u>will not be shared</u> under any circumstances except as testimony before local regulatory entities.

Justin Waltz
Department of Human Services
500 Summer St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Public Records Request for Pesticide Drift Records

October 27, 2008

Dear Mr. Waltz:

Pursuant to ORS 192, et seq., Oregon Toxics Alliance hereby requests on behalf of ourselves and our members, any and all information pertaining to pesticide exposure complaints, investigations and reports kept by the Department of Human Services that pertain to the following specifications for information that was sought or compiled from 2006-2008:

1. any and all pesticide exposure incidents or poisonings at schools, day cares, pre-schools and/or colleges, including complaints, investigations, medical examinations, citations, reports (whether or not the complaint resulted in a finding of poisoning or exposure);

2. any and all pesticide drift incidents or poisonings at school bus stops or near school bus stops, including complaints, investigations, citations, reports (whether or not the complaint resulted in a finding of poisoning or exposure);

3. any and all pesticide exposure incidents or poisonings involving children or pregnant women, including complaints, investigations, citations, reports (whether or not the complaint resulted in a finding of poisoning or exposure);

4. files involving exposure to children, teachers and/or school staff that resulted in a finding of violation of a pesticide use or use of a pesticide that was not in compliance with labeling instructions, or the issuance of a Letter of Advisement;

Pursuant to ORS 192.440(4), we request that any fees associated with this request be waived as this information will generally benefit the public interest by allowing the public access to this information to make decisions to better protect their health. I am happy to answer any questions about this request. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Oregon Toxics Alliance

Email: info@oregontoxics.org
Website: www.oregontoxics.org
Office Phone: 541-465-8860
Street Address: 1192 Lawrence Street
Eugene, OR 97440

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Public Records Request Form

Please send completed form to: deqinfo@deq.state.or.us or fax to 503-229-6124

Date: _____

Requestor's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

_____

Records Requested (please print or attach a preprinted list): _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

☐ I agree to pay the cost of fulfilling this Public Records Request, according to the rules set forth in OAR 340-011-0310 through 340-110-0390. These costs may include the cost of locating records, reviewing records to delete exempt material, supervising the inspection of records, copying records, certifying records and mailing records, including the cost of searching for records regardless of whether the Department was able to locate the requested records.

☐ My organization has a current fee waiver # _____ and therefore no charges should be assessed.

☐ My organization is a local, state or federal public/governmental entity acting in a public function or capacity and therefore no charges should be assessed..

NOTE: ***The agency reserves the right to charge for any job based on criteria listed in OAR 340-011-0380.***

_____ _____

Signature Date

Per ORS 192.440, for public records requests with an estimated cost of more than $25, DEQ is required to provide the requestor with a written notification of the estimated amount of the fee. The requestor must then confirm that they want DEQ to proceed with making the records available.

DEQ estimate of job cost: $ _____

Requestor confirmation of receipt of job estimate and authorization to proceed with making records available.

_____ _____

Signature Date

I will pick up: ☐ Please send UPS or FED-EX: ☐ Please send US Mail: ☐

UPS billing number: _____ FED-EX billing number: _____

THIS SPACE FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

DEQ Contact: _____ Telephone: _____Fax:_____

Office:_____ If Headquarters, please identify Division: _____

:\Public Records Request Agreement.dot
Revised Jan.2006 by Dale Chipman

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