

Things Pesticide Users Can Do To Protect Against Pesticide Liability Complaints

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Increasingly, the routine use of pesticides is generating complaints of illness by those who believe they may have been exposed. Complaints usually include immediate ill effects (nausea, vomiting, runny nose, diarrhea, headaches) and, occasionally, long-term concerns (cancer, birth defects). Responding to complaints received is important. Even though you may believe a complaint to be unfounded, a sensitive response is important. It's simply good business, and your approach can make a big difference in a person's reaction to your future use of pesticides. Sometimes, however, no matter what you do, a concerned citizen may pursue regulatory or legal actions against you. It is absolutely vital, then, to always be prepared for a worst-case occurrence.

For every complaint you receive, certain immediate steps should be taken — for your own protection and to reassure the complaining citizen.

1. Demand that the complaining person(s) immediately see their physician or be taken to a clinic or emergency room for blood and urine samples. If immediate analysis of the samples is not required, label them and store them in a freezer. (The samples will remain good for a long time, allowing later analysis if, for example, a lawsuit is filed six months down the line.) Be certain that the taking of the samples and their analysis or storage is documentable by a reliable third party. (Be able to accurately trace the chain of events.) If the complaining party refuses to allow the taking of samples, document the refusal.
2. The day a complaint is received, collect environmental samples from the spraying area. Spray-site samples of leaves, litter and soil should be collected. Also, similar samples from the complaining party's property should be gathered. Again, immediate analysis may not be necessary, so proper storage should be arranged. **IMPORTANT:** When collecting environmental samples, be

certain to include a credible third-party witness (e.g., off-duty policeman). This will permit corroboration of time, place and procedure if a subsequent regulatory or legal action arises.

3. If particular advice or assistance is needed, the best resource for help is your State Department of Agriculture. (Oregon Farm Bureau News, May, 1986. NERR July, 1986, p 3.) ■

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EVERGLADES ANNOUNCES POA ANNUA

The Everglades Golf Course Superintendents Association announces the 13th annual Poa Annuia Classic. The Naples Beach Club will host the event which will be held May 16-18. A half-day seminar from 8:30 to 12:00 on Sunday the 17th will feature Mr. Jim Robertson of Sports Enhancement Associates. Mr. Robertson's topic will be "The Other Side Of Golf."

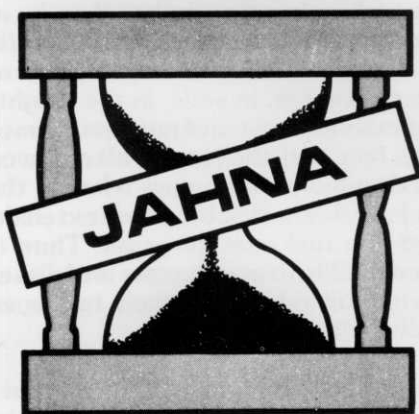
Along with the usual Sunday afternoon practice round of golf, there will also be a beach party for those who don't wish to play golf. The beach party will include volley ball, horse shoes, shuffle' board, and lawn croquet.

Sunday evening will be the scene of the usual outdoor dinner. However, the theme for this year's banquet will be "50's night" and entertainment is promised to be outstanding.

The tournament on Monday begins with an 8:00 shotgun start and will be followed by a golf clinic. This year Mike Calbot will be demonstrating the trick shot.

Cost per entry for the tournament is \$65.00 and will include one ticket for the banquet. Additional tickets for the banquet are \$35.00. The Beach Club is offering special rates for superintendents and their families who wish to spend the weekend. Rooms are \$50.00 for double occupancy. However, reservations must be made by April 15 to qualify for the special rates.

Proceeds from the event will be donated to turf research.



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