

NW Pesticide Applicators Go International

An aggressive group of pesticide applicators in the Pacific Northwest that recently initiated legal action against the federal government over the DDT issue has now expanded into an international organization.

Pacific Northwest Pesticide Applicators, Inc., on Feb. 20, became the International Pesticide Applicators Association, Inc.

President George M. Harrison said invitations already had been

sent to chapters in California, Florida and British Columbia. He welcomed others.

New bylaws have been written, and additional information is available by writing Harrison, P.O. Box 66022, Seattle, Wash. 98166.

Purposes of the non-profit corporation, Harrison said, include:

1. To improve the standards of the pesticide application profession and to bring into closer union the members of the insect, disease and weed control industry and allied horticultural trades.

2. To promote goodwill and safe and ethical practices among members and create confidence of the public in the ability and reliability of members.

3. To promote discussion and interchange of knowledge and experience among members that may be helpful to raising the standards of pesticide applicators.

The new organization offers both group memberships and individual memberships. Annual dues are set at \$150 per organization plus 10% of its total membership dues. Dues for individuals (members-at-large) are \$25 per annum. An annual meeting is to be held in September, with the city to be announced later.

Herbicides Most Harmful When Being Handled

A pesticide safety specialist with the University of California Agricultural Extension Service warns that even herbicides are dangerous to humans, especially to those who work with them in the field.

"Every worker handling toxic materials should be advised of possible danger to him, and should be instructed on correct rates of application and proper protective measures," Dr. J. Blair Bailey, entomologist, told the 800 or more weed control specialists at the recent California Weed Conference.

"Possibly more important than this is for you to tell workers in advance what to do in case of a severe splash or spill of the concentrated chemical into eyes or onto skin."

Citing the latest State Department of Public Health, Bureau of Occupational Health, statistics, Dr. Bailey said in 1968 there were 66 cases of poisoning attributed to herbicides and defoliant, for sure. Since only workers covered by Workmen's Compensation insurance are counted, the number of poisonings is certainly higher, he said. In addition, he noted there were about 500 reports of eye irritation and "chemical burns" from physicians that year.

There were no occupational deaths attributed to pesticides that year, but it was only the third year out of the past 18 in which deaths were not reported, Dr. Bailey said. Usually, deaths occurred because someone was ignorant or careless and left chemicals where they could be accidentally consumed by humans, mostly children, or by livestock.

"But not all deaths from pesti-

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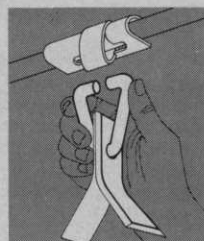
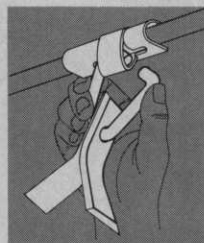
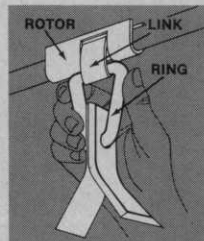
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