

# ***The Worker Protection Standard: Protecting Foresters from Pesticide Exposure***

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# Purpose of Worker Protection

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Protect agricultural workers & pesticide handlers from injury or illness caused by pesticides used to grow agricultural crops on farms, forests, nurseries & greenhouses



# A Well-Managed WPS Program

- ▶ Keeps you in compliance with EPA & DATCP
- ▶ Reduces business liability concerns by improving on-site standards & awareness
- ▶ Reduces likelihood of complaints & claims
- ▶ Forces employers/managers to think “pesticide safety”
- ▶ ***Benefits Everyone***



# Pesticide Exposure vs. Poison Oak

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## Poison Oak

- ▶ People vary in their reactions
- ▶ You can see the plant
- ▶ You can't see the oils on your skin
- ▶ Oils will transfer to equipment
- ▶ Oils can contaminate the family laundry



Source: Garnet  
Cooke, Oregon OSHA

## Pesticides

- People vary in their reactions
- Unless you are the handler you won't see the container
- You can see residues from hack & squirt, but not aurally
- Residues will be on equipment
- Residues can contaminate the family laundry

# What is a Pesticide?



The Pesticide Umbrella

# Which Pesticides for WPS?

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- ▶ Restricted Use
- ▶ General Use
- ▶ Organic



Look for the “Agricultural Use Requirements” box on the label

# Ag Use Requirement Example

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## AGRICULTURAL USES

### AGRICULTURAL USE REQUIREMENTS

Use this product only in accordance with its labeling and with the Worker Protection Standard, 40 CFR Part 170. This Standard contains requirements for the protection of agricultural workers on farms, forests, nurseries, and greenhouses, and handlers of agricultural pesticides. It contains requirements for training, decontamination, notification, and emergency assistance. It also contains specific instructions and exceptions pertaining to the statements on this label about personal protective equipment (PPE) and restricted-entry interval. The requirements in this box only apply to uses of this product that are covered by the Worker Protection Standard.

Do not apply this product in a way that will contact workers or other persons, either directly or through drift. Only protected handlers may be in the area during application.

Do not enter or allow worker entry into treated areas during the restricted-entry interval (REI) of 48 hours. PPE required for early entry to treated areas that is permitted under the Worker Protection Standard and that involves contact with anything that has been treated, such as plants, soil, or water, is:

- Coveralls
- Chemical-resistant gloves made of any waterproof material
- Shoes plus socks
- Protective eyewear.

# Who are Workers?

- ▶ Workers = hand labor



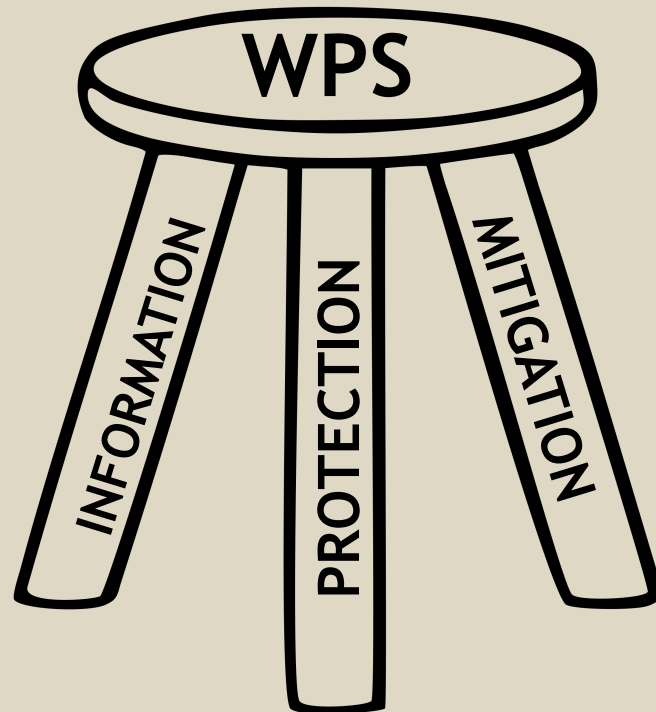


# Who are Handlers?

- ▶ **Handlers = applicators and more**  
**Apply pesticides, mix & load,**  
**repair application**  
**equipment, handle open**  
**pesticide containers**



# Three Parts to the Worker Protection Standard (WPS)



## Information Leg

- ▶ Annual pesticide safety training to workers & handlers
- ▶ Use a “Central Location” to display the following:
  - ▶ Safety Poster
  - ▶ Pesticide application information
  - ▶ Safety Data Sheets
- ▶ Notify workers about treated areas (Signs or verbal)
- ▶ Exchange information with commercial applicators

## Information - Annual Training

- ▶ **Workers and handlers must be trained every year\***
  - ▶ **When? Prior to working in an area where a pesticide was applied in previous 30 days**
- ▶ **WPS training video for forestry - available on YouTube**
  - ▶ **Created by Oregon OSHA and Oregon Dept. of Agriculture**
  - ▶ **Find it through PERC website, about 17 minutes**
- ▶ **\*Certified pesticide applicators do not need annual training**

## Who Can Train?

- ▶ Certified pesticide applicators or
- ▶ Those who have taken a WPS Train the Trainer course
  - ▶ On-line options available
  - ▶ See PERC website



## Training Programs

- ▶ Presented orally from written materials or audio-visually (forestry video)
- ▶ Training location must be reasonably free from distraction and conducive to learning
- ▶ Presented in a manner workers can understand
- ▶ Trainer must be present throughout training and respond to workers' questions
- ▶ Training records, keep for two years

## Information - Central Posting

- ▶ **WPS Safety Poster (new version for 2018)**
- ▶ **Pesticide application information**
  - ▶ **For all WPS labeled pesticides applied**
- ▶ **Safety Data Sheets for each WPS labeled pesticide**
  - ▶ **Capture application information and SDS for two years**

# Information - Central Location





## Notification in Forestry

- ▶ How do you communicate with your forestry staff?
- ▶ Two communication types for two different purposes:
  - 1: Notification of impending applications - this prevents direct exposure to the pesticide application.
  - 2: Pesticide application information - informs workers of applications made in the preceding 30 days; allows workers to take appropriate precautions from indirect (residual) contact

# Protection Leg

- ▶ Keep workers & others out of areas being treated
- ▶ Follow restricted entry intervals (REI)
  - ▶ Oral notification versus warning signs
- ▶ Provide & maintain PPE
- ▶ Early entry workers get extra training & PPE



## New Protection Measures

- ▶ Exclude workers & others on your property from the Application Exclusion Zone (AEZ)
- ▶ Medical evaluations & fit testing for respirators
- ▶ 18 years as minimum age for handlers & early entry workers

## Mitigation Leg

- ▶ Decontamination supplies
- ▶ Worker: 1 gallon of water per worker, soap, single-use towels
- ▶ Handlers: 3 gallons of water per handler, soap, single-use towels. Change of clothes for handler



# Mitigating Pesticide Exposure

- ▶ Eyewash when eye protection required
  - ▶ At least six gallons of water for 15 minutes of steady, gentle stream
  - ▶ Applicator keeps pint on person
- ▶ Provide emergency assistance





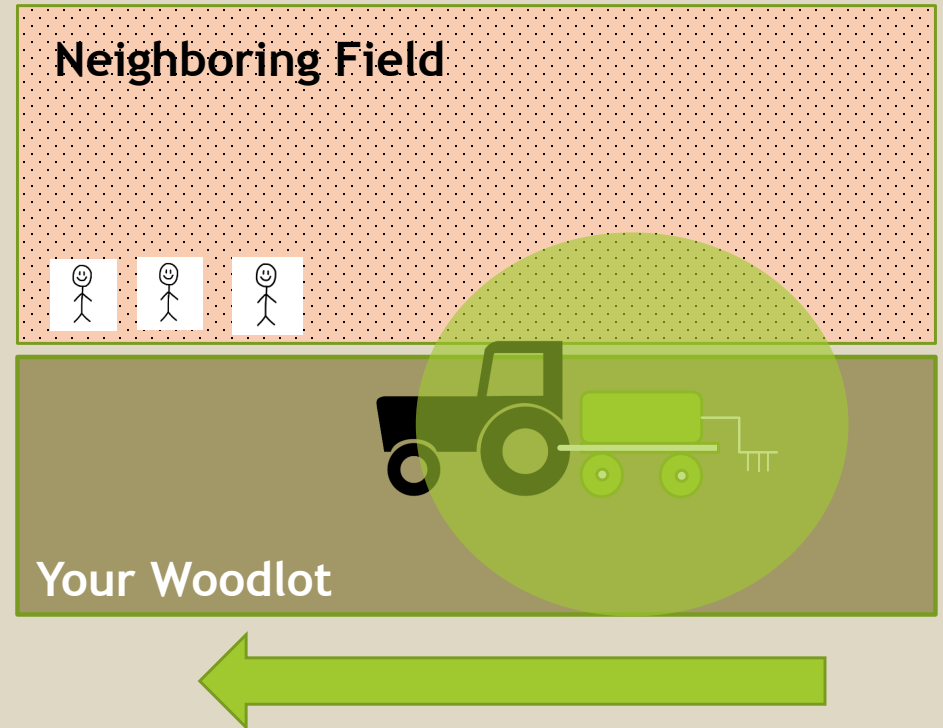
# Application Exclusion Zone (AEZ)

- ▶ **‘Bubble’ around application equipment**
  - ▶ Moves around field with spray rig
  - ▶ Based on:
    - ▶ Type of application equipment
    - ▶ Droplet size
- ▶ **Keep people out of AEZ or suspend application**



# Suspend Application

- ▶ **Suspend:** If people are present, pause application
- ▶ **Evaluate:** determine if you can resume with no contact
- ▶ **Resume:** continue if you are sure no contact will occur
- ▶ **Two handouts**





# Expanded Training Requirement - *On Hold*

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- ▶ Intention to cover more safety topics for workers & handlers in 2018
- ▶ However, *NOT REQUIRED*, due to pending rule revision
- ▶ Use the forestry video and you're OK

# Another WPS Rule Revision?

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- ▶ December 21, 2017 EPA announcement
- ▶ EPA will open rule later in 2018 and request comments
- ▶ Focus on three items:
  - ▶ Minimum age
  - ▶ Designated representative
  - ▶ AEZ
- ▶ Potential revisions by 2019

# **DATCP Contact Information**

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**PERC Website:**

**<http://www.pesticideresources.org>**

**Thank you to Oregon OSHA**