



Pesticide Application Safety Committee November 1, 2023, 2:30pm-4:30pm

Welcome, we will get started in a few minutes

Virtual members please refrain from using the chat box during discussions- those in person will not see the chat in real time. Please raise hand and unmute to ensure all members hear the comment.

Mute your mic during the meeting and unmute when you want to speak.

Participants will not have the ability to unmute or turn on their camera. If you are a committee or work group member, please use the Q/A to inform admin so they can get you permission

Optional: Participants really appreciate being able to see you during the meeting. If you turn your camera off during a presentation, please consider turning it back on if you wish to speak.

Chat will be disabled during the Webinar please use the Q/A to communicate with admin.

Use these quick actions to notify me, raise your hand.

When the session is over, click **Leave**, to leave the Zoom meeting.

The Zoom meeting control bar includes the following elements from left to right:

- Unmute button (muted)
- Start Video button (video off)
- Participants button (2 participants)
- Q&A button
- Share Screen button
- Record button
- Reactions button
- Recording... indicator
- Leave button

Pesticide Application Safety Committee Agenda

Time	Topic	Speaker/Facilitator
2:30–2:45	Open Meeting Welcome and roll call Agenda Review	Griselda Arias Co-chairs and Committee Members
2:45 to 3:05	Tri Agency Update	Griselda Arias
3:05 to 3:15	Advisory Work Group Update	Griselda Arias
3:15 to 3:35	Review and Discussion of SSB 550	Committee Members
3:35 to 3:45	Public Comment	Public Attendees
3:45 to 4:05	Review and Discussion of SSB 550 cont.	All
4:05 to 4:15	Next meeting / Action items	Committee Members
4:15 to 4:30	Closing Remarks	Co-chairs and Committee Members

Inter-Agency Collaboration Pursuant to SSB550

Key Objectives:

- Enhanced Response to Human Pesticide Exposures
- Improved Acute Pesticide Illness Investigations
- Strengthen Outreach Efforts

Meetings & Communication

- Tri-Agency meetings
- Creation of Referral guidance
- Working together to update memorandum of understanding
- Monthly check ins between WSDA Pesticide Compliance Manager & DOH Pesticide Program Manager & LNI Agricultural Compliance –IH Supervisor
- WSDA & DOH virtual staff meeting
- DOH providing a quarterly report on current investigations to WSDA
- Increase in collaborative investigations
 - Communication between investigators

Inter-Agency Collaboration

Key Achievements

- Overall Communication improvement
- Near completion of MOU
- Quarterly report from DOH to WSDA
- Sharing of summary reports & investigative information

Strengthening Inter-Agency Synergy: Outlook

- Solid foundation
- Shared Data Set
- Coordinated review of cases
- Streamlines processes
- Shared resources and knowledge

Advisory Work Group

- April 7, 2023- last meeting of advisory work group
- November 20, 2023- Reconvening of Advisory Work Group
- Tentative Meeting plan: Dec, Jan, Feb & Mar
- Objective:
 - Gain a comprehensive understanding of how investigations are currently conducted.
 - Recommend changes that can not only improve these processes but also ensure better alignment, efficient and elimination of duplication amongst the agencies.

Review of SSB 550

- What are the key objectives of SSB 550, and how have they been met since the bill's inception?
- What aspects of the current bill have been most effective, and which areas might need strengthening?
- Are there any sections of the bill that require updates based on current pesticide safety data or technology advancements?
- Can any additional measures be introduced to enhance the safety and effectiveness of pesticide applications within the scope of the bill?
- In what ways can expanding the membership of PASCOS enhance our committee's work and pesticide safety overall?
- Regarding the advisory workgroup's membership, are there specific areas of expertise or stakeholder groups that we currently lack and should consider including?
- Are there any budgetary or resource allocations within the bill that need to be adjusted for continued support of pesticide safety initiatives?

Establishment of PASCOC membership and administrative support

Pesticide application safety committee—Report to the legislature. (Expires July 1, 2025.)

(1) The pesticide application safety committee is established. Appointments to the committee must be made as soon as possible after the legislature convenes in regular session. The committee is composed of the following members:

(a) **One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;**

(b) **One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate;**

(c) **The director of the department of agriculture, or an assistant director designated by the director;**

(d) **The secretary of the department of health, or an assistant secretary designated by the secretary;**

(e) **The director of the department of labor and industries, or an assistant director designated by the director;**

(f) **The commissioner of public lands, or an assistant commissioner designated by the commissioner;**

(g) **The dean of the college of agricultural, human, and natural resource sciences at the Washington State University, or an assistant dean designated by the dean;**

(h) **The pesticide safety education coordinator at the Washington State University cooperative extension; and**

(i) **The director of the University of Washington Pacific Northwest agricultural safety and health center, or an assistant designated by the director.**

(2) The committee shall be cochaired by the secretary of the department of health, or the assistant secretary designated by the secretary, and the director of the department of agriculture, or the assistant director designated by the director.

(3) Primary responsibility for administrative support for the committee, including developing reports, research, and other organizational support, shall be provided **by the department of health and the department of agriculture**. The committee must hold its first meeting by September 2019. The committee must meet at least three times each year.

The meetings shall be at a time and place specified by the cochairs, or at the call of a majority of the committee.

When determining the time and place of meetings, the cochairs must consider costs and conduct committee meetings in Olympia when this choice would reduce costs to the state.

Advisory Work Group

(4)(a) An advisory work group is created to collect information and make recommendations to the full committee on topics requiring unique expertise and perspectives on issues within the jurisdiction of the committee.

(b) The advisory work group shall consist of a representative from the **department of agriculture, two representatives of employee organizations that represent farmworkers, two farmworkers with expertise on pesticide application, a representative of community and migrant health centers, a toxicologist, a representative of growers who use air blast sprayers, a representative of growers who use aerial pesticide application, a representative of growers who use fumigation to apply pesticides, and a representative of aerial applicators.** The secretary of health, in consultation with the director of the department of agriculture and the full committee, must appoint members of the advisory work group, and the department of health must staff the advisory work group. The letter of appointment to the advisory work group members must be signed by both cochairs.

(c) The advisory work group must hold meetings **only upon the committee's request.** To reduce costs, the advisory work group must conduct meetings using teleconferencing or other methods, but may hold **one in-person** meeting per fiscal year.

(d) Members of the advisory work group shall be reimbursed for mileage expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.060.

(e) The advisory work group must provide a report on their activities and recommendations to the full committee by **November 9th of each year.**

(5) The priority of the committee is to explore how the departments of agriculture, labor and industries, and health, and the Washington poison center collect and track data. The committee must also consider the feasibility and requirements of developing a shared database, including how the department of health could use existing tools, such as the tracking network, to better display multiagency data regarding pesticides

The committee may also evaluate and recommend policy options that would take action to:

- (a) Improve pesticide application safety with agricultural applications;
- (b) Lead an effort to establish baseline data for the type and quantity of pesticide applications used in Washington to be able to compare the number of exposures with overall number of applications;
- (c) Research ways to improve pesticide application communication among different members of the agricultural community, including educating the public in English and Spanish about acute and chronic health information about pesticides;
- (d) Compile industry's best practices for use to improve pesticide application safety to limit pesticide exposure;
- (e) Continue to investigate reasons why members of the agricultural workforce do not or may not report pesticide exposure;
- (f) Explore new avenues for reporting with investigation without fear of retaliation;
- (g) Work with stakeholders to consider trainings for how and when to report;
- (h) Explore incentives for using new technology by funding a partial buy-out program for old spray technology;

The committee may also evaluate and recommend policy options that would take action to:

- (i) Consider developing an effective community health education plan;
- (j) Consult with community partners to enhance educational initiatives that work with the agricultural workforce, their families, and surrounding communities to reduce the risk of pesticide exposure;
- (k) Enhance efforts to work with pesticide manufacturers and the environmental protection agency to improve access to non-English pesticide labeling in the United States;
- (l) Work with research partners to develop, or promote the use of translation apps for pesticide label safety information, or both;
- (m) Evaluate prevention techniques to minimize exposure events;
- (n) Develop more Spanish language and other language educational materials for distribution, including through social media and app-based learning for agricultural workforce communities;
- (o) Explore development of an agricultural workforce education safety program to improve the understanding about leaving an area being sprayed; and
- (p) Work with the industry and the agricultural workforce to improve protocols and best practices for use of personal safety equipment for applicators and reflective gear for the general workforce.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Please notify meeting admin via Q\A chat box if you would like to sign up for public comment. They will provide you access to unmute and come on camera during public comment time.
- Public Comment Period will be 3:45pm to 3:55pm
- Written Comments can be submitted via email:
 - Griselda.arias@doh.wa.gov



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