

Ag Commissioner's Office Role During Investigations

- Interview affected workers/persons
- Interview supervisors/applicators/witnesses
- Collect samples— clothing, foliage, swabs

Conduct records inspection

Collected medical records

Uncover any violations of pesticide laws and regulations.



Evidence Collection

- Witness testimonies
- Pesticide Use Report Queries (spray history for area around incident location)
- Sample collection – Swab, foliage and clothing.
- Important notes on samples
 - Samples are sent to the California Department of Food and Agriculture Residue Laboratory for analysis
 - Pesticide screens cannot be run. Samples have to be analyzed for one or more active ingredients identified from isolated application(s). Several applications utilizing the same active ingredient(s) can affect what we can analyze for due to competing applications and contamination (i.e. cannot say definitively what application was responsible).
 - Swab samples from vehicles can be negatively affected if the complainant drives through many agricultural areas and hasn't washed their vehicle in awhile (contamination).
 - Clothing samples that have been used for many days without being laundered can be contaminated, where samples cannot be obtained. For example, field workers who work in numerous treated fields.
 - We can collect samples from entities that have a permit on file with our department or are subjected to pesticide laws and regulations (farms, packinghouses, nurseries, etc.). We cannot sample from private property without permission (businesses, houses etc.)

Pesticide Investigations

Write an official report

- Answers the who, what, when, why, and how?
- “Were any pesticide laws and regulations violated?”
- Cannot always determine “What happened?”
- Assess Fines and Penalties

