

## Further Suggestions To Handle Pesticide Drift

If you are indoors and smell a pesticide or if you think a pesticide is drifting into your area, stay indoors and close all windows, doors, and other openings. Turn off all fans that bring in outside air.

If you are outdoors, move to where you can't smell the pesticide. You may need to move some distance away.

Do not touch spray residue on a vehicle, building surface or other object, and don't wash it off. Call Poison Control or IDOA.

If you are sprayed while you are driving, stop in a safe area and call 9-1-1. *(SDEN is waiting for further direction from IDOA concerning this type of drift incident.)*

If you have a camera, take pictures of the applicator, if possible, whether plane or tractor. Get a picture of the drift, if possible. Be sure your camera has the date on it.

Take samples of any suspected pesticide damage to plants, etc, and send sample to a certified lab listed on the back page. IDOA will not give any credence to your samples, but it is a very important step.

To help us track drift complaints in Illinois please report your pesticide drift complaint to Spray Drift Education Network (SDEN) at 815-988-2628 or [www.spraydriftillinois.com](http://www.spraydriftillinois.com).

### Drift Between Neighbors

Pesticide drift is *not* something you are expected to tolerate or ignore even if you live, work, garden, drive or recreate near or around an agricultural area. It is a violation of the Illinois Pesticide Act if pesticides move off the target area.

If you suspect drift has occurred, take action!

**The first and most important step to stop and prevent future pesticide drift is to file the Pesticide Incident Complaint Form with the Illinois Department of Agriculture.**

## Important Contact Numbers If You Are Involved in a Pesticide Drift Incident

For a health emergency, call 9-1-1.

Poison Control Center  
1-800-222-1222

Illinois Department of Agriculture  
Ask for "Pesticide Incident Complaint Form"  
1-800-641-3934 or 217-785-2427  
<http://www.agr.state.il.us/Environment/Pesticide/pestuses.html>

To register your property's pesticide sensitive crops and habitat: [www.driftwatch.org](http://www.driftwatch.org)

National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC): 1-800-858-7378

Pesticide Action Network North America  
[www.panna.org](http://www.panna.org) 415-981-1771

University of Illinois Pesticide Safety Education Program  
<http://web.extension.illinois.edu/psep/facts/?PageID=1638>

### For Laboratory Testing Of Your Samples

Columbia Food Lab  
36740 Historic Columbia River Hwy  
Corbett, OR 97019 503-695-2287  
[www.columbiafoodlab.com](http://www.columbiafoodlab.com)

Pacific Agricultural Laboratory  
12505 NW Cornell Road  
Portland, OR 97229 503-626-7943  
[www.pacaglab.com](http://www.pacaglab.com)

Antech Lab (Diana Tracy)  
501 NE Thompson Mill Road  
Corbett, OR 97019 503-695-2135  
Email: [antech@cascadeaccess.com](mailto:antech@cascadeaccess.com)  
(no website available)

### For Pesticide Drift Support

Spray Drift Education Network (SDEN)  
815-988-2628  
See our website for more information:  
[www.spraydriftillinois.com](http://www.spraydriftillinois.com)



*If it happens to you.....*

# PESTICIDE DRIFT IN ILLINOIS

## How To Report A Pesticide Drift Incident

"The drift of spray and dust from pesticide applications can expose people, wildlife, and the environment to pesticide residues that can cause health and environmental effects and property damage."

The Environmental Protection Agency  
-EPA Website: [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

### Spray Drift Education Network

*(SDEN)*

815-988-2628

[www.spraydriftillinois.com](http://www.spraydriftillinois.com)

*Spray Drift Education Network  
is a grass roots organization  
dedicated to helping Illinois citizens  
report and prevent pesticide drift.*

## Have You Experienced Pesticide Drift?

- Have you smelled a disturbing ‘chemical smell’ in the air and retreated indoors to protect yourself or your children?
- Have you experienced burning eyes, skin irritation, or trouble breathing during or after a nearby pesticide application?
- Do you fear pesticide being applied to your neighbor’s land is moving onto your property?
- Have you been sprayed by an aerial applicator while driving down the road?

***If you have experienced any of the above, it is likely you have experienced pesticide drift.***

## What Is Pesticide Drift?

**Pesticide drift** is the movement of a pesticide through the air away from the intended target. This drift can be in the form of mist, particles or vapor (gas). It can be noticeable as a cloud of pesticide spray or dust, or can be invisible and odorless.

“**Pesticide**” includes herbicides, insecticides and fungicides.)

## Two Types Of Pesticide Drift

**Particle drift** describes drift that occurs during or soon after the pesticide is applied.

**Vapor drift** occurs when pesticides slowly evaporate into the air out of the soil or off a crop after application. It can take place for several days following an application.

According to the Illinois Department of Agriculture, *it is a violation of the Illinois Pesticide Act if the pesticide moves off the target area.*

## What To Do If You Suspect Pesticide Drift Has Occurred

*If you have been sprayed, call 9-1-1 or seek medical help immediately.*

If the emergency is under control, please follow these steps:

1. Write down the date, time, location of incident, type of applicator if known (ground rig or aerial applicator). If possible, note wind speed and direction.

2. Write down a brief description of exactly what you witnessed.

3. If possible, find out: a) the name of the company and/or individual who applied the pesticide, b) the name of the person who owns the property where the pesticide was applied and, c) the name of the chemical(s) applied.

4. Fill out the Pesticide Incident Complaint Form provided by the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA). Forms can be mailed to you by contacting IDOA at 1-800-641-3934

Or download the form at:

[www.agr.state.il.us/Environment/Pesticide/pestuses.html](http://www.agr.state.il.us/Environment/Pesticide/pestuses.html)

5. Make a copy of the form and mail it to:

*Illinois Department of Agriculture  
Bureau of Environmental Programs  
State Fairgrounds*

*P.O. Box 19281 Springfield, IL 62794-9281*

*Or fax the form to (217)524-4882*

6. Complaints must be received by IDOA within **30** days of the incident or within **30** days of when the damage was first noticed.

7. Keep detailed notes of every conversation, phone calls and correspondence concerning your pesticide drift incident.

8. Notify Spray Drift Education Network of your incident. Contact us at 815-988-2628.

[www.spraydriftillinois.com](http://www.spraydriftillinois.com)

## What To Expect After Filing A Pesticide Complaint

1. An IDOA inspector will contact you and most likely make an appointment to visit the location of the drift incident.
2. Inspector will view your suspected damage, interview neighbors, research log reports of pesticide spraying, take samples and write a report for IDOA. The inspector will leave with you a signed copy of a Notice of Inspection. *Insist inspector take samples of property you suspect received the drift even if inspector does not want to take samples.*
3. Wait for IDOA to complete the investigation. (This can take weeks or months.)
4. IDOA will send you a letter notifying you of their findings – i.e., there was, or was not, pesticide drift on your property.
5. IMPORTANT\*- Request a copy of the complaint investigation file by sending a written request addressed to the:

*Freedom of Information Office  
Illinois Department of Agriculture  
State Fairgrounds, P.O. Box 19281  
Springfield, IL 62794-9281*

**\*IDOA destroys case files after an undisclosed amount of time. Request a copy of the completed investigation no more than 4 weeks after receiving your notification letter.**

## Remember, Pesticide Drift...

- Can occur in all weather conditions including high AND low wind speeds.
- Can occur while on your own property, in public areas such as parks, pools, and schools or while traveling down the road.
- Should be suspected if you smell a strong “chemical” smell.
- May have occurred on your property even if there is no evidence of physical damage to vegetation, livestock, or other living things.