

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HANDS-ON PESTICIDE SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAM

The Hands-on Pesticide Safety Training for Pesticide Handlers has been such a success that the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) is offering more training events during 2009. The training program, conducted in partnership with many growers and organizations and with the collaboration of the Department of Labor & Industries, provides high quality pesticide safety training for agricultural employees who handle pesticides.

WHAT IS THE HANDS-ON TRAINING?

The Hands-on training program delivers effective and relevant pesticide safety information in a "learning by doing" style. The techniques used are effective in overcoming learning barriers such as low literacy levels.



Participants learning how to assemble and inspect a respirator during one of the hands-on exercises of the Respiratory Protection Module.

WHO IS THE TARGET AUDIENCE FOR THIS TRAINING?

The Hands-on training program has been specially designed for unlicensed pesticide handler employees. These are employees who mix, load and apply pesticides and perform activities such as repairing pesticide contaminated equipment, and who do not hold a WSDA pesticide applicator's license. Those employees with a pesticide license can attend the training to supplement their existing knowledge and will earn up to six recertification credits for attending.

WHY THE HANDS-ON TRAINING?

I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand. (Confucius)

Most adults learn better when information is presented interactively using a variety of methods. In the Hands-on Training workshops, participants do not sit passively; they participate in hands-on exercises to learn how to handle pesticides in a safe manner. Other adult learning styles are addressed with activities such as group discussions, illustrations, demonstrations, case studies, games, story telling, and others.

WHAT ARE PEOPLE SAYING ABOUT THE HANDS-ON?

"Have more trainings of this kind!" is what we hear most often from participants. Several growers who sent their employees have called us just to say, "Thanks for putting on such a great training program!"



Pesticide Management Division



WSDA Trainer Flor Servin leads a hands-on activity where participants learn to find and understand toxicity signal words on pesticide labels.

HOW IS THE TRAINING CONDUCTED?

Class Size: 24 - 50 participants

Length: 8 hours

Time: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

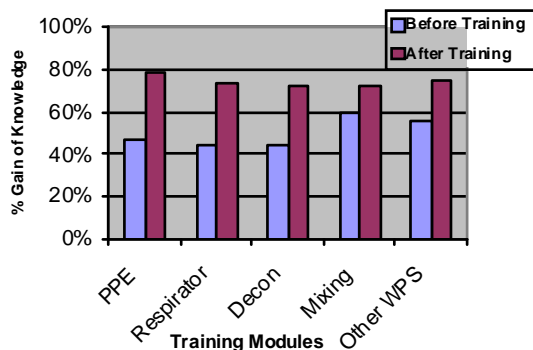
A maximum of 50 participants is divided into small groups that rotate through the five following modules. Each of the modules is taught by a pair of trainers consisting of both government and industry employees.

- 1) Personal Protective Equipment
- 2) Decontamination of Protective and Application Equipment
- 3) Respiratory Protection
- 4) Mixing & Loading
- 5) Other pesticide safety topics required by the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) such as drift, heat stress, etc.

REAL TRAINING RESULTS!

The self-assessment given before and after training to participants shows positive results. They consistently score themselves at a higher level of knowledge after the training. The chart below shows training evaluation results from participants who attended 18 out of the 20 workshops offered in 2008.

Hands-on Pesticide Safety Training 2008
(622 responses)



LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAINING

The Hands-on Training Program helps growers by delivering training that not only complies with but exceeds the requirements of the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) to train pesticide handlers.

TRAINING DOCUMENTATION

Participants receive a Certificate of Completion and a WPS Verification of Training Card issued by WSDA.

REGISTRATION

The Registration Contact for each workshop is designated in the table below. The fee is normally \$50 per person, which is payable to the sponsor only.

BRINGING THE HANDS-ON TRAINING PROGRAM TO YOUR FARM

The WSDA Farmworker Education Program (FEP) staff is available to support you in bringing the Hands-on Training Program to your farm, ranch or other facility at no cost to you. In 2008, the FEP offered a total of 20 Hands-on workshops in different locations and dates. Half of the workshops were provided on farm as a direct request from employers.

For more course information, please contact Flor Servin, (509) 662-0590, fservin@agr.wa.gov or Ofelio Borges, (509) 249-6939, oborges@agr.wa.gov.

FECHA	LUGAR*	PATROCINADOR	REGISTRACIÓN
02/11/2009	Burbank	Flat Top	Hilario Lopez (509) 948-0570
02/14/2009	YVCC Campus, Grandview, WA	YVCC Grandview Campus	Zulma Reyes (509) 882-7015
02/21/2009	Moxee, WA	Roy Farms	Beto Gutierrez (509) 945-0647
02/27/2009	Columbia Basin College, Pasco, WA	Washington Assoc. of Wine Grape Growers	Andrea Baker (509) 782-8234
3/11/2009	Sunnyside	Farm Bureau	Rick (360) 584-7681 or 1-800-331-3276 Jeff Lutz (509) 669-2990
3/21/2009	Yakima Valley Community College	Yakima Valley Community College	Violet Valdez (509) 574-4977

WSDA reserves the right to alter this schedule, including canceling classes, due to severe weather or low enrollment.