



COLORADO ENVIRONMENTAL PESTICIDE EDUCATION PROGRAM

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PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATION COMPLAINTS

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This fact sheet discusses the process of a private pesticide application complaint in Colorado.

<http://www.cepep.colostate.edu>

Private Pesticide Application Complaints

Who can file a complaint?

Anyone can file a complaint simply by calling the [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) Region 8](#) office and voicing their concern.

What happens after a complaint is filed?

EPA contacts and interviews the complainant(s) and applicator(s) to determine if the complaint is valid and if EPA has the regulatory authority to investigate further.

Is there an investigation?

If the complaint appears to be valid and EPA determines it has the regulatory authority, then an investigation takes place.

How long does an investigation take?

There is no set time frame. It depends on the availability of EPA staff and the facts of the case.

How are complaints enforced?

When violations are documented, EPA Region 8 takes enforcement based on the [Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act \(FIFRA\)](#) Enforcement Response Policy. FIFRA requires that private applicators be given a Notice of Warning prior to being assessed a civil penalty. Subsequent to receiving a written notice of warning, private applicators can be assessed a civil penalty of up to \$1,100 per violation.

References and Resources

Enforcement Response Policy for the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). 1990. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Pesticides and Toxic Substances, Washington, D.C. <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/policies/civil/fifra/fifraerp.pdf>

EPA Region VIII Office, Denver, CO. 303-312-6312, 1-800-227-8917 (Region 8 states only) <http://epa.gov/region8/>

Osag, T. 2003. Personal Communication. EPA Region 8, Denver, CO.

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