

2021 VIRTUAL FORUM FOR MIGRANT AND COMMUNITY HEALTH



MARCH 25, 2021

THREE PROMOTORES DE SALUD INJURED BY OFF-TARGET PESTICIDE DRIFT AND PROTOCOLS POST EXPOSURE AND FUTURE ADVOCACY



**JOANNE B. PRADO, MPH, PRISCILLA TOVAR,
LUPE HERNANDEZ & MARY JO YBARRA-VEGA MS LMHC**

LEARNING OBJETIVES

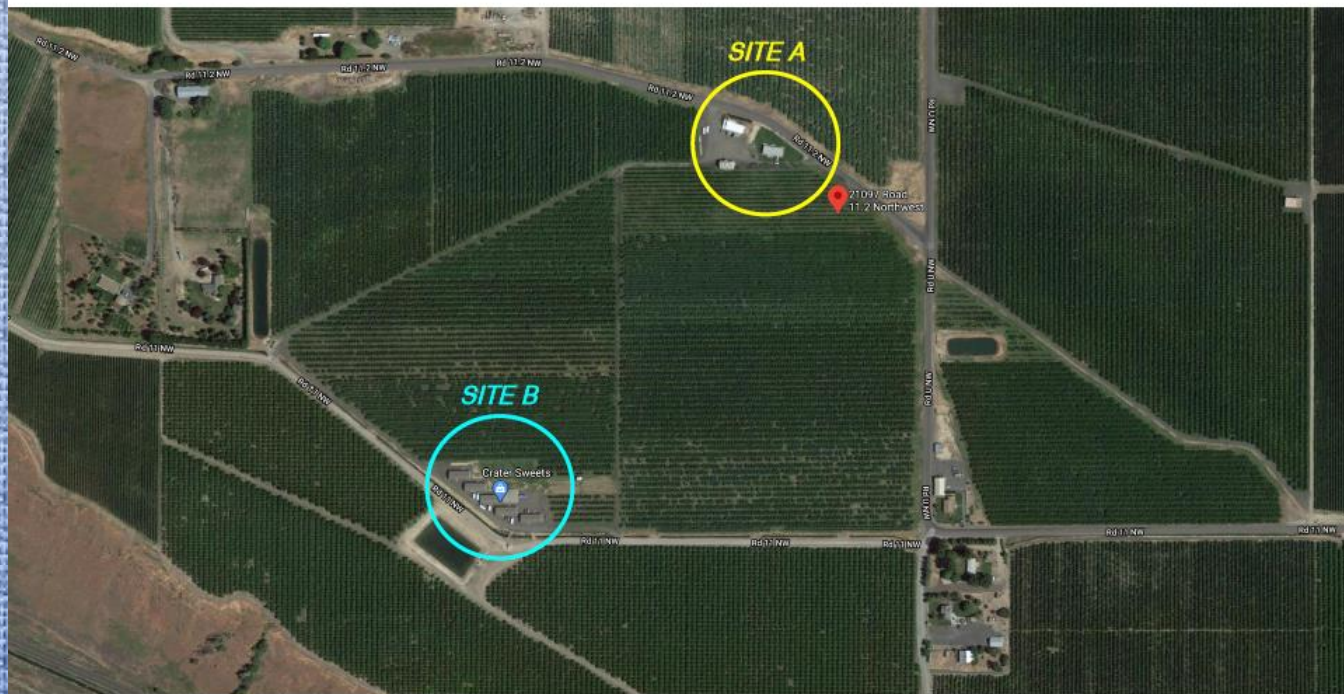
- Describe positive outcome or actions involving this team of promotoras and their work process during the exposure (what did they do right).
- List actions Migrant and Community health centers and staff may consider doing to reduce the incidents of pesticide drift exposure onto people living and working in agricultural communities (including their staff).
- What is the role of State Department of Agriculture, State Department of Health, State Department of Labor and Industries in Washington State in regulating pesticides and preventing illness?



OUR STORY- OUR NOVELA

LOCATION WHERE THE DRIFT OCCURED PRIOR TO A COVID-19 PREVENTION CLASS WITH H-2A WORKERS JUST OUTSIDE OF QUINCY WA MAY 12, 2020

*QUINCY COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER PERSONNEL: COVID-19 OUTREACH TRAINING
APPROXIMATELY 1:00 PM, TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2020*



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LUPE, PRIS AND MJ'S ACTUAL REPORTED DOCUMENT TO THE DEPT. OF AG. (IN THEIR OWN VOICE)

May 29, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

On May 12, 2020, My coworker's Lupe, Mary jo, and I had a scheduled outreach event to provide COVID-19 education with Above the Dirt's H2A workers at their housing sit at the following address: 21097 RD 11.2 NW in Quincy WA. We arrived at the housing site approximately around 1:00. We all three got out of the company vehicle at the same time. Mary Jo went to approach the workers who were sitting while waiting in front of their home (cabin #1). Lupe and I opened the back of the vehicle to unload when all of a sudden, we heard Mary Jo say something along the lines, "oh no, he is not spraying, is he?". When Mary Jo started walking toward the front, she saw a spray applicator spraying in the neighboring orchard McDougal. When I turned, I noticed he had stopped and I heard the machinery being turned off. By then, the workers had started walking towards the back. I was still standing at the end of the vehicle when within a minute or two, here came another sprayer. He was coming from the left. One of the workers was standing next to me to help me unload boxes and a small table. When we heard and saw the mist coming through the trees. It was an overcast day, so the wind picked up, and the mist was carried over. Mary Jo quickly told me to record, but I wasn't quick enough to capture the whole thing. My coworker Mary Jo heard the mist on my jean jacket the second time. Mary Jo contacted our clinic director Lynn bales and Above the Dirt's office assistant Mireya Davalos. Soon after, while Mary Jo was on the phone, a gentleman in a white truck drove up. Lupita and Mary Jo both spoke to him. We decided to continue with the training. As we were setting up, the gentlemen in the white truck showed up with another gentleman. Mary Jo approached both men, and Lupita followed. I stayed behind. I heard the older gentlemen explain to Mary jo what had been sprayed. He said it was not anything harming; it was a fungicide and calcium. I also heard him say he hoped they could clear up this matter between them and not contact the department of agriculture. They exchanged contact information, and we continued with the training. As we had finished loading once again, we saw another sprayer and heard the mist once again. Mary Jo shouted, "quick jump in the car!". We got in the vehicle as fast as we could and left. All three of us saw a medical provider the next day, where an L&I claim was filed. Within a day or two, I developed a skin reaction on my forehead, I felt tired and had stomach issues. This statement is the closest I could remember the facts.

Sincerely,



Priscilla M. Tovar
Quincy Community Health Center
Promotora de Salud
509-787-6423

June 1, 2020

To whom may it concern

On May 12th 2020 at approximately 1:00 pm, two co-workers Priscilla Tovar and MJ Ybarra and I were traveling on a gravel road to reach the cabins were Above the Dirt's H2A workers were waiting for us to arrive. I was the driver of the company car. When we arrived at the labor camp to teach the workers about COVID-19 and sexual health topics. We began to unload the car. At mean while Mary Jo went to approach the workers who were sitting while waiting in front of their home (cabin #1). Priscilla and I opened the back of the vehicle to unload when all of a sudden, we heard Mary Jo say something like, "oh no, he is not spraying, is he? I turn back to walk where MJ was standing and seen the gentleman spraying along, he notice that we were there and stop his machine. At this time I felt a mist on my hands, a weird bad smell and little time after I notice another sprayer also spraying along the other line, we also got a mist blown to us. The good part it wasn't windy or else we probably would of got it worse. I notice a white truck driving towards where the sprayer was. I notice I knew the person who he was driving his company McDougal and Son truck (Ricardo Trujillo). I walk towards him and said "should I do something for this?" "He told me everything is ok but you should take a shower!" I also look around and notice a gentleman who was in a green golf cart looking that was also close to the mist who wasn't wearing no gear nor mask. I went back and asked the H2A workers that were standing outside waiting for our arrival if they were ok due to some weren't wearing masks. Mary Jo contacted our clinic director Lynn bales and Above the Dirt's office assistant Mireya Davalos. When we got all the workers ready to do our speech, the same truck driven by Ricardo Trujillo was driving up where we were located with the H2A workers. At that point I notice another gentleman name David how he said his name was to MJ who approach them and I follow her. Priscilla was talking to the workers, I heard when the McDougal gentleman David told MJ "we could fix it with in us no need to call the AG department". I look at Priscilla and kept working. He said it was not anything harming that it was a fungicide and calcium. At this time I felt like weird feeling on my forehead and a little headache but just kept teaching this H2A workers. One of the task for our teaching is how to wash our hands. When I was doing that I felt really good with the cold water. This happen just couple minutes after getting the mist of the spray on my face and arms that were open for contact. As we had finished loading once again, we saw another sprayer and heard the mist once again. Mary Jo shouted for us, "Quick jump in the car!" We got in the vehicle as fast as we could and left. When we were leaving the area I notice green little golf looking cart and the white truck once again right in front were they both notice we were just leaving the area. I went to work to punch in, after went straight home to take a shower because I was feeling itchy on my arms. I felt really tired, sleepy and the itchy on my arms were the same. The next day I had to get seen due to the rash on my arms and forehead. My arms were really bad at night the itchinness was going away. I also had a headache that wasn't going away night and day. This written statement is the closest I could remember the facts.

Sincerely,



Lupita Hernandez, MAC
5093982862

Written Statement Regarding Drift 6-3-2020

On May 12, 2020 at 21097 Rd 11.2 NW (Bulleri Housing) at approximately 1:00 pm me and two co-workers, Priscilla Tovar and Lupe Hernandez arrived at the labor camp to teach the workers about COVID-19 and sexual health topics. As we began to unload, I went to go talk to the gentlemen in cabin #1 and as I approached them I hear and saw a sprayer across the small canal in front of cabin #1 were the workers were sitting. My first thought was (and I said this outloud) "Oh no...are they spraying"? My workmate Lupe was also close to me and as we walked back to van I felt the first little mist on my hands. I did not smell anything at first as all of us were wearing a mask. We-Lupe and I-then headed back to address the spray applicator. Lupe said, "He saw us" and she noticed that he was not wearing PPE as we could see him in the cab. Right then a second sprayer came along and this time I saw the yellowish spray come across the field through the trees and over to us. I also hear the spray coming through the trees and I hear it landing on Priscilla's jean jacket. The wind was blowing in our direction and it was overcast that day so it was not too hot. I think we got it even worse because of the wind. By that time I had asked Priscilla to take her phone out and take pictures. I did not know until later she took a video where you can hear Lupe say if we felt the second mist fall on us which was much heavier and intent.



By this time both sprayers saw us and within a matter of minutes a gentleman of cabin #1. Lupe said, "I know that gentleman used to work for McDougal". Lupe said a few more things to one another Above the Dirt Admin. Mireya Davalos and then my next call was to my supe! 1:17pm for about 4 1/2 min). It was there at that said Above the Dirt were we we all the workers to come back away from. They saw us reacting to what had hap about what had happened. One of the comes and tells them he is going to sp to ask if the guys had gotten sprayed (dozen or so guys we taught that day), began the class a short older Anglo m camp. I walked over and was going to Chism and he said he was sorry about any issues because we only got spray other things. He also went on to say, 'to report it to the Dept. of Ag.' I also in Comm. Health Center doing some ed. supposed to use flaggers when they s in the orchard like this". He asked at the back of one of my business cards I asked him to write down his contact in

6791). I then asked Lupe to write down the other guy's name on the card so we would not forget and she wrote, Ricardo Trujillo. (Here is a picture of the card that David Chism wrote his name and number on and where Lupe wrote down Ricardo's name.) Upon loading up and leaving the first sprayer came around AGAIN and in the SAME row spraying and I told all the girls to get into the car quick. I said to them, "can you believe that not only did they spray us twice but again. He knew we were here why would he come back!?" We came back and our supervisor asked if we wanted to be seen by a provider but they then they had left so we all went home and took showers and the next day we saw John Jameson PA-C. My eyes were irritated, I had a headache, my stomach hurt and I was very tired. I also got watery eyes and nose, had stomach aches, and developed a rash on my forehead. My throat was sore and the next day for two days I had a hard time breathing. I also had to wear my glasses as my eyes were giving me problems. My husband got mad at me and insisted I see the provider the next day.

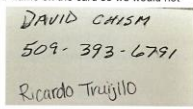
The symptoms that I experienced where the following: I had irritated eyes like they had lots of dust in the eyelashes, watery eyes, runny nose, sore throat, a terrible headache, nausea, difficulty in breathing for about two days, and I was very tired. I also developed some bumps on my forehead.

Luckily because of the COVID-19 pandemic we were wearing masks and typically during outreach we wear long sleeves, jeans and tennis shoes or boots this helped lessen our exposure.

Sincerely,



Mary Jo Ybarra-Vega MS LMHC
509-787-6423 x 5226
Outreach/Behavioral Health Coordinator



UPON ARRIVING TO THE CAMP



1. An air blast spray applicator pulled by a tractor is the background noise you hear.
2. We have already been sprayed on once by the first tractor and MJ asks me to record situation on my cell.
3. We were sprayed on a second time during the recording of this video by a second tractor which is not visible.



CONVERSATION BETWEEN PROMOTORAS

- Lupe: Oh Yeah I did feel that?
- MJ: Yeah!
- Pris: I Don't know if that...
- Lupe: Did you feel that?

Tractor & spayer stop and are turned off after they see us and MJ walks out to the entrance of the road. See the sign?

Joanne Prado



GROUP QUESTIONS

1. WHAT IS THE ROLE OF PROMOTORAS/
CLINICS, LOCAL, STATE HEALTH AND OTHER
STATE AGENCIES IN PREVENTION?
2. WHAT MORE SHOULD HAPPEN...
LAWS/POLICY....
3. WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT THIS? WHAT IS
OUR COLLECTIVE VISION?
4. IF WE HAVE TIME, REVIEW MLCHC
PROCEDURE.



PROCEDURE

Providing High Quality, Compassionate, and Comprehensive Primary Health Services for the Entire Family, With a Special Focus on the Underserved and Migrant Farmworkers in Our Community

Title: Outreach Field Safety Protocol Procedure **Original Approval:** June 15, 2020

Number: PR **Last Approval:** June 15, 2020

Department: Outreach

Purpose

It is the intent of the Moses Lake/Quincy Community Health Center (ML/QCHC) Outreach Program to ensure the personal safety of the Outreach Staff, who may be requested to do site visits on location with agricultural workers in the field setting, including farmworker housing sites.

PROCEDURES

- A. Outreach Staff will always use reliable transportation that is well-fueled. It is preferred that staff utilize the company vehicle, but if already in use, note mileage of private vehicle for reimbursement purposes. If using the company vehicle, follow the Company Vehicle Use Policy #3760 for documenting mileage, etc.
- B. Outreach Staff will dress in a manner that is professional and suitable for Agricultural settings/situations; preferably light weight, light-colored long-sleeved shirts, and appropriate pants (jeans and long shorts are approved) with closed toe shoes. A second set of clothes should be packed and available in the vehicle in cases where a change is needed. A nametag is required.
- C. Outreach Staff will:
 - a. contact grower/crew chief/ grower's Human Resource (HR) to confirm appointment, which will be set up for daylight hours, preferably early afternoon;
 - b. set appointment information, including time, address, grower phone number in Outlook schedule;
 - c. consider conducting a pre-site visit (recommended) to assess where education will occur, safety issues to address and tools or items needed for that outreach event.
 - d. prepare Group Education Record form, assess and package marketing items (give-a-ways) that match the event.
 - e. carry a cell phone, a supply of water and personal hygiene supplies (hand sanitizer (minimum 60% alcohol), sanitizing wipes, gloves, soap and paper towels).
 - f. before getting out of the car, thoroughly check surroundings including activity involving tractors and spray equipment. If activity is present (sprayers, tilling, etc.), remove the team from the location and reschedule as appropriate.
 - g. call 911 if in danger or if a medical emergency presents itself; and
 - h. document visit upon return to the office in the grower file, including topics discussed, number of workers assisted, etc.
- D. Outreach Staff will not:
 - a. Enter or stay on site if personal safety is at question; or
 - b. Enter the shared living areas if the situation seems questionable
- E. Outreach staff will report any unusual event to the Director of Operations and submit a portal event for tracking purposes.

This Procedure Shall Be Periodically Reviewed and Updated Consistent With the Requirements and Standards Established by the Board of Directors and by MLCHC Management, Federal and State Law and Regulations, and Applicable Accrediting and Review Organizations.

<i>Lynn Bales</i> Signature	Lynn Bales, Director of Operations Title	06/18/2020 Date
<i>Sheila Berschauer</i> Signature	Sheila Berschauer, CEO Title	06/23/2020 Date

¹ Citations & References

WAC	
RCW	
DATE WCC REVIEW	

Revision History

Revision Date	Revision Description	Revision Made By

GROUP SHARE





SHARED GROUP VISION

COMMENTS & QUESTIONS

Joanne Prado

Thank You

Priscilla Tovar

Promotora de Salud

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