

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (WSDA)

Hands-on Pesticide Safety Training for Pesticide Handlers Workshop

The Hands-on Pesticide Safety Training for Pesticide Handlers Workshop (hands-on) has been such a success that WSDA is offering more training events during 2015, with assistance from the Department of Labor & Industries and in partnership with industry and government partners. This training program provides high quality pesticide safety training for agricultural employees who handle pesticides.

What is the hands-on?

The hands-on delivers effective and relevant pesticide safety information using different training techniques that are effective in overcoming learning barriers such as low literacy levels.



Ofelio Borges, WSDA, conducting a demonstration to show participants how to properly carry out the respirator seal check.

Who is the target audience?

This hands-on workshop has been specifically designed for unlicensed pesticide handler employees. These are employees who mix, load, apply or perform other pesticide handling activities, and who do not hold a WSDA pesticide applicator's license. Employees with a pesticide license can attend the training to supplement their existing knowledge and earn up to six pesticide credits.

Why hands-on Training?

Most adults learn better when information is presented interactively, using a variety of methods. In the hands-on workshop, 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, story-telling and others.

Comments from participants

"Have more of these kinds of things!" 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!"



WSDA Trainer, Flor Servin, leads an activity where participants discuss personal protective equipment selection based on label requirements and other factors such as application equipment.

How is the training conducted?

Length: 8 hours

Time: 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM

Language: Spanish (English upon request)

Participants: Minimum of 24 – maximum of 50

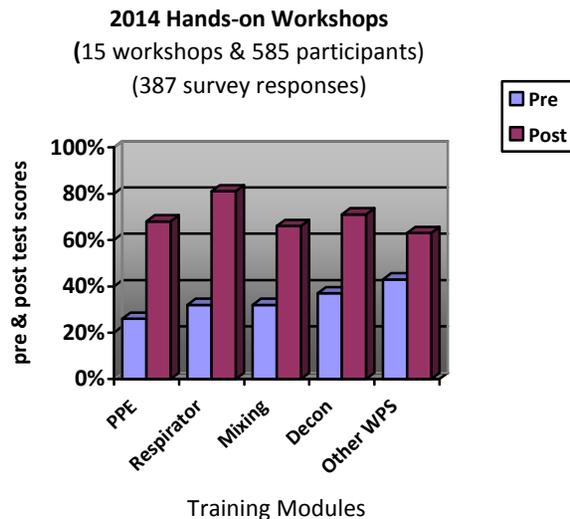
The group of 50 participants is divided into smaller groups that rotate through the following five modules:

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

The training includes information on the Globally Harmonized System (GHS). Topics include SDS content, pictograms and their meaning.

Training Results

In 2014, WSDA used the TurningPoint® Audience Response System (ARS) in order to evaluate the effectiveness of this training program offered to a total of 585 participants. (Note: TurningPoint® ARS allows participants to respond to questions anonymously using remote controls.) Participants completed a pre- and posttest that gauged their level of knowledge before and after receiving training. The assessment results show a significantly higher level of knowledge after the training. The chart below shows training evaluation results from participants who attended the hands-on workshops in 2014.



Legal Requirements

The hands-on helps growers by delivering training that not only complies with but exceeds the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) training requirements for pesticide handlers in the proper and safe use of pesticides in agricultural establishments.

Training Documentation

Unlicensed pesticide handlers who complete the training receive a WPS Verification of Training Card issued by WSDA. (Note: Cards are not issued to participants arriving late or leaving before the end of training). Certified Applicators receive six pesticide credits.

How to sponsor a Hands-on

If you are interested in working with WSDA to sponsor a hands-on training event for your farm, community or association, view our web site [sponsor](#) and [site requirements](#) fact sheets for information.

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.

Registration

Pre-registration is required! Registration is through the sponsor **ONLY**. Do not try to register with WSDA! Register by calling the designated contact person. Participants need a warm jacket because some training exercises are conducted outdoors.

2015 Locations & Dates

7:30 AM to 5:00 PM

Hood River, OR Jan. 16
Registration: Steve Castagnoli 541.386.3343
Sponsor: Oregon State University

Grandview, WA Feb. 27
Registration: Zulma Ochoa 509.882.7015
Sponsor: YVCC

Pasco, WA March 6
Registration: Janet Heath 509.782.8234
Sponsor: WA Assoc. of Wine Grape Growers

Okanogan, WA March 13
Registration: Nicole Bruner 509.665.9641
Sponsor: WA State Tree Fruit Association

Lacey, WA March 17
Registration: Jeff Lutz 509.669.2990
or Corwyn Fischer 509.881.4935
Sponsor: Washington Farm Bureau