



FIELD SAFETY ALERT

To: Managers, Leaders and employees **Date:** 5th October, 2010
Subject: Locust Spraying Alert **Alert no:** 254

Incident description

The Department of Primary Industries and Resources of South Australia (PIRSA) has begun a preventative spray regime to eliminate the large swarms of locusts located in parts of South Australia. This Alert is being distributed to heighten employees' awareness of this activity and to recommend that exposure to the spray be avoided by inhalation or direct skin contact.

Locust spraying is a standard annual activity in some rural areas, this year's spray regime has been intensified due to the large number of locusts identified. A map of the target areas is attached.

Extent of injury/damage

There have been no injuries although the potential for exposure is possible unless prudent precautions are taken.

Actions required

PIRSA have recommended withholding periods for stock and crops in areas where spraying has occurred. The chemicals that will be used are Adonis (fipronil), Sumithion (fentitrothion), Green Guard ULV (metrahitium) and Lorsban 500 (chlorpyrifos). Two of these chemicals, although used regularly in rural applications, are classified as hazardous (Lorsban and Sumithion).

All areas sprayed shall be treated as potentially hazardous and to avoid direct contact with the dilute nature of the chemical which may be located on electrical distribution assets, employees shall wear protective clothing and riggers gloves in these areas for at least 14 days after spraying has been completed.

All employees in contact with sprayed areas are required to also wash their hands after work and reminded to launder their clothes regularly.

Issue of a Field Safety Alert to notify employees of the preventative spray program and provide contact details of Control Centres.

Comments

All employees must not place themselves or others at risk of injury through their actions and perform an adequate risk assessment prior to undertaking any work.

Two control centres have been established and will be operational from 08:00 to 16:00 hours (7 days) and at times may be open until 18:00 hours. The control centres (Loxton 1800 833541 and Orroroo 8658 1456) will be able to highlight where spraying has occurred and which particular chemical has been used. If you need urgent information about sprayed areas outside of these hours, the State Incident Controller (0423 821 611) will be able to assist

PIRSA has informed communities that spraying has commenced in the mid north area around Parachilna, spraying in the Riverland is due to commence in approximately two weeks.

Managers and Leaders to place a copy of this Safety Alert on all safety notice boards.

Further information on the Plague Locust web page is available at the following link:
<http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/locust>

Any enquiries regarding this bulletin should be referred to Andrew Sloan, Health and Safety Manager
45 776

