

# **OHS regulations on pesticides and implications for public health**

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# This presentation will

- Discuss the development of information-based OHS regulations on pesticides
- Discuss the links between worker and public safety
- Comment on future policy issues

## Information-based OHS regulations

- Pesticide exposure index – quantity of pesticide applied (pesticide application factor), and workforce per area (labour intensity factor)
- Crop specific information on pesticide use
- Pesticide application techniques
- Compensation data

# Pesticide exposure index

- Eight regions of the province
- Leading agricultural regions include:
  - Fraser Valley, vegetable and berry crops
  - Okanagan, tree fruits and vineyards
  - Peace region, grains
- Pesticide application factor - from 1 to 89
- Labour intensity - from 1 to 80
- Pesticide exposure index - from 1 to 3560

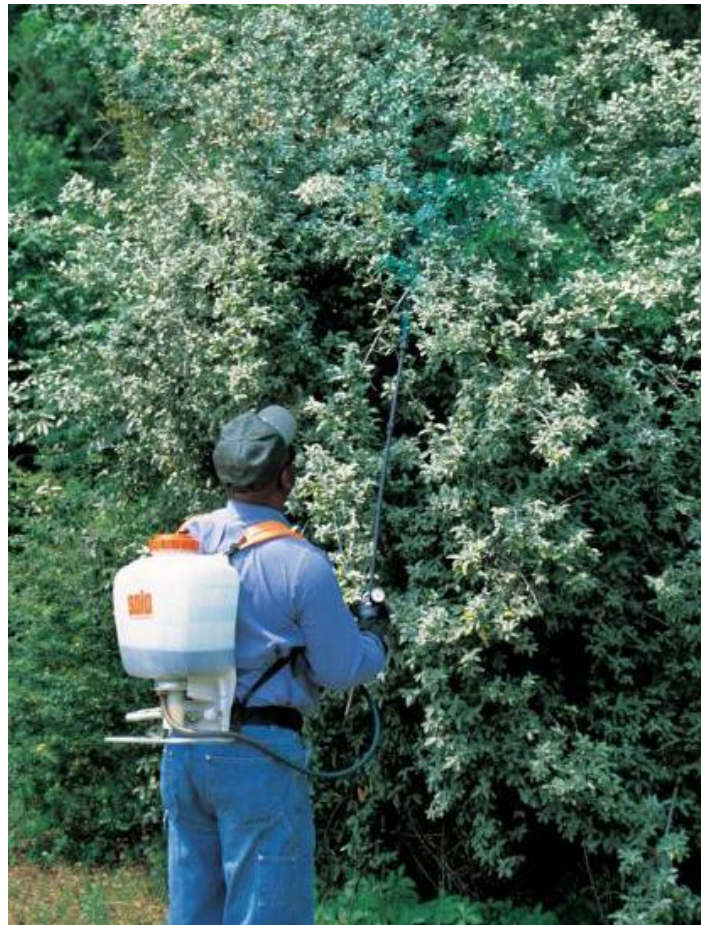
# Application techniques

- Handheld units
- Backpack units
- Boom sprayers
- Air blast sprayers
- Fumigation
- Aerial spraying

# Handheld units



# Backpack spraying



# Boom sprayers





# Airblast sprayers



# Fumigation



# Aerial spraying



# OHS Regulation in BC

Three levels of protection

- Core requirements – responsibilities and programs
- Chemical and biological safety requirements
- Requirements specific to pesticides

# Chemical and biological safety requirements

- Right to know and WHMIS
- Limits for airborne exposure
- Engineering and personal protection controls
- Storage, and emergency procedures
- The special issue of carcinogens

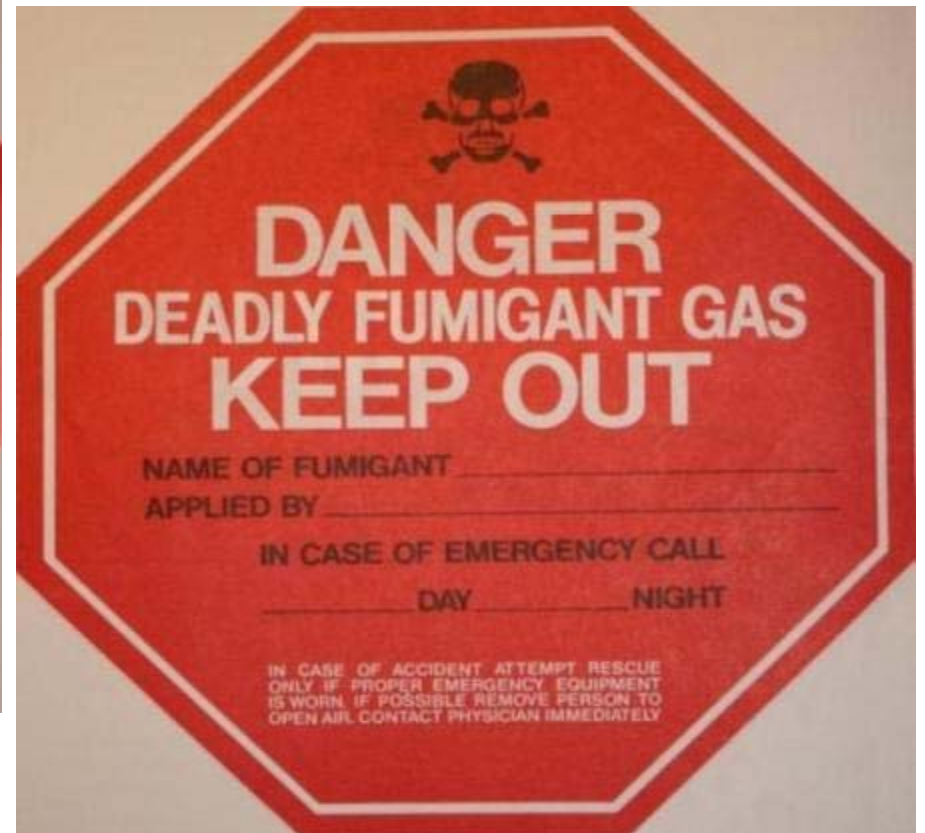
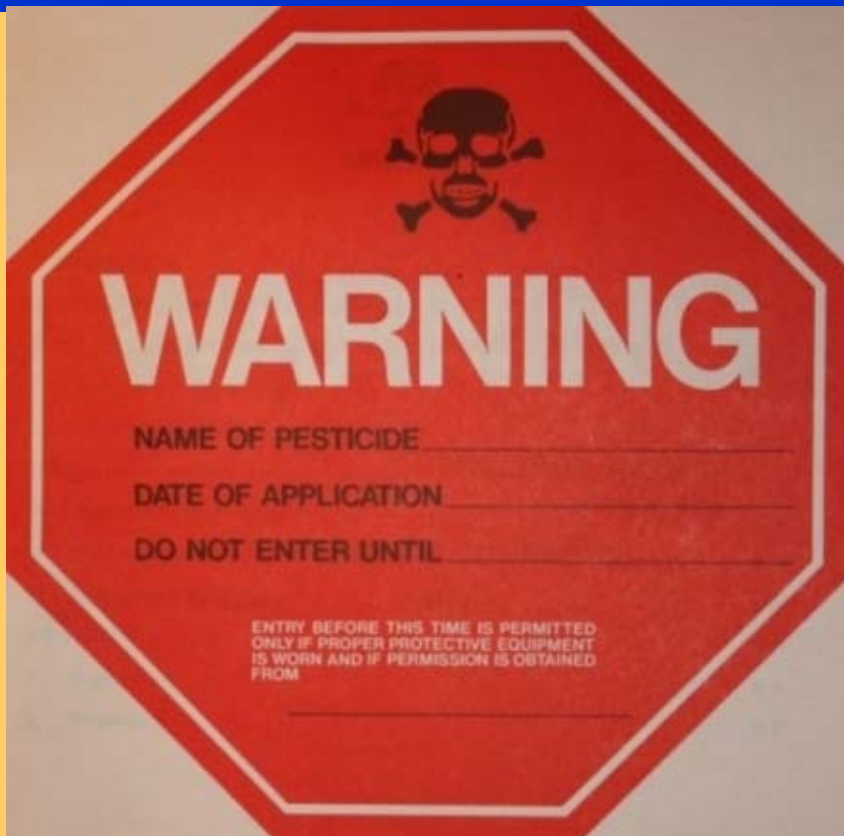
# The special issue of carcinogens

- Obligation to substitute where practicable
- Special exposure control plan
- ALARA (as low as reasonably achievable) applies

# Pesticide specific requirements

- Certification requirements for applicators
- Pesticide application – issue of drift
- Re-entry (restricted entry) intervals

# Restricted entry signs





# OHS regulations across Canada

- General reliance on core and chemical safety requirements to address pesticides
- OHS requirements apply to agriculture in all jurisdictions except Alberta
- BC regulations include requirements that address hazards specific to agriculture
- Use of codes of practice

# Connections between OHS and public health

- WHMIS and pesticide information requirements
- Training of applicators
- Substitution
- Control of pesticide drift
- Restricted entry and time-to-harvest intervals

## Looking ahead

- Further work on identifying adverse health effects
- Expansion of information requirements for pesticides, including restricted entry intervals
- Further consideration of OHS regulations
- Role of Health Canada

**Thank you**

Questions and comments?

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