

Complaint Overview CY 2024

Topic	Complaint Details
Drift	Call received 5/6/2024. Caller observed a powered spray application on Saturday, May 4, 2024 at approximately 11:37AM. Caller stated the wind was blowing directly towards their property and observed drift and could taste chemicals and immediately went inside.
Drift	Email received 5/23/2024. Homeowner is concerned that pesticide drifted onto their property during a mosquito control application at the neighbors house on 5/23/2024. The homeowner also believes to have been exposed to the pesticide through drift during an application at the same property on 5/2/2024. Homeowner experienced burning sensation in their throat on 5/2/2024. Homeowner is also concerned about safety of food grown in their garden if exposed to the pesticides.
Drift	Call received Tuesday, May 28, 2024. Caller witnessed a boom spray application to a field adjacent to their property on Monday, May 27, 2024 at approx. 930a. Caller stated wind was blowing nearly 20 mph and witnessed drift of the material onto their property, including a white coating on their animal trailer. Caller pastures cows in the area where the drift was witnessed and is concerned that the pasture and round hay bale recently put in pasture were impacted by spray.
Drift	Caller reports that he believes drift is coming from the property next door. There are hayfields next to his property. caller gets sick to his stomach and has headaches after the fields are sprayed. He also states that his well is contaminated from the spraying.
Drift	Caller woke up to a very strong chemical smell. She also noticed a white powdery material around her home.
Drift	Call received 7/5/2024. Caller believes drift occurred onto their property from mosquito/tick control pesticide application at neighboring property on 7/5/2024. Caller stated that they and experienced burning eyes, lips and throat as a result of the application.
Drift	Call received 7/17/2024. Caller stated that a plane flew directly over their house today and made a pesticide application to an adjacent potato field. Caller is concerned that pesticide drifted onto their property and their children's play set due to the close proximity of the application and that the plane was making turns directly over their home.
Drift	Call received 8/12/2024. Caller stated that a tick/mosquito application occurred at a neighboring property at about 245p on 8/12/2024. Caller stated that the spray was observed to have been directed at the property line and drifted across the property line onto their property and that there vegetable garden is within 50 feet of the property line where the drift/off-target deposition occurred.
Drift	Caller's neighbor has company fog their property for ticks and mosquitoes. The mist drifts onto her property.
Drift	Call received 9/13/2024. At approximately 330p on 9/13/2024 caller witnessed a foggy mist drift onto the property. Caller witnessed an applicator conducting a backpack spray at a neighboring property. Caller asked the applicator what was being sprayed and the applicator provided a label for Talstar P Insecticide.
Human Exposure / Health Effects	Hotel located in Lewiston, has an outbreak of cockroaches. DHHS referral for possible unlicensed pesticide applications in the hotel.
Human Exposure / Health Effects	Call referred from EPA Region 1 via email on 3/14/2024. Caller is concerned about high rates of cancer in the vicinity of their home. Caller is concerned that Round-Up is used at a nearby strawberry farm.
Human Exposure / Health Effects	Call received 4/10/2024. Caller is concerned that tenants at an apartment building in Orono are experiencing symptoms from exposure to mothballs. Landlord of building used mothballs in the attic to repel squirrels from entering the building. Tenants started noticing mothball odors on April 1, 2024. Symptoms include headache, nausea and nosebleeds.
Human Exposure / Health Effects	Call received 6/3/2024. Caller is concerned that a neighbor is spraying pesticides into the roadway. Caller states than when they pass by this location they are exposed to the chemicals and suffer adverse health effects.
Human Exposure / Health Effects	Applicators on golf carts were spraying herbicides on the right of way and on sidewalks near Hannaford. The applicator(s) were spraying near people and were not wearing PPE. The ground is also wet after last night's rain. The incident was around 10:30 AM on June 25, 2024.
Human Exposure / Health Effects	Crew was spraying on a ROW in the rain and near a brook.
Human Exposure / Health Effects	ROW spraying
Human Exposure / Health Effects	Tenant is a property owner occupied duplex alleges outdoor application of mothballs by the landlord to deter wildlife (rats).
Laws/Policies	Caller was recently employed as a licensed applicator. Caller is concerned about some practices employed by the company including indoor insecticide applications to baseboards of hotel rooms documented as crack and crevice applications. Caller has witnessed mixing and loading activities being conducted inside kitchens of restaurants being serviced. Pesticide applications being made by applicators with expired licenses.
Laws/Policies	Caller is an attorney in Portland looking for an expert witness regarding pesticides on produce.
Laws/Policies	Caller is looking for information about their rights and responsibilities regarding structural pest control pesticide applications at their residence and in their unit.
Laws/Policies	Call received 3/7/2024. Caller is concerned about pest management activities occurring at their apartment building and in their apartment related to cockroaches. Caller does not believe the pesticide application company under contract is offering proper follow up and monitoring of the infestation. Caller does not feel they are being provided the answers or information regarding their questions posed to the application company.
Laws/Policies	Caller was concerned about pesticide application conducted during wind speeds of 15-20 mph they observed on 4/23/2024. Call received 4/23/2024.
Laws/Policies	Call received 10/8/2024. Caller was concerned about lawn care pesticide application occurring at a preschool during business hours and whether or not that was allowable.
License Issue	Call received 3/15/2024. Caller is concerned that company originally contracted for mold and mildew remediation was not properly licensed to apply pesticides.
License Issue	Call received 2/2/2024. Caller is dissatisfied with company that they contracted with for control of mice infestation. Caller believes infestation got worse after technician serviced home and believe they must not be licensed applicators.
License Issue	Call received on 2/22/2024. Caller is concerned about unlicensed applications of pesticides at hotel in Lewiston and failure to use integrated pest management. Site has a cockroach infestation and is being closed for an imminent health hazard.
License Issue	Call received on 2/28/2024. Caller is concerned that the first company hired for mold and mildew remediation at their home was not properly licensed. Caller stated that after the air quality testing continued to fail after remediation work was conducted they hired a different company that informed them about the licensing requirements.
License Issue	Received May 1, 2024. Company CMA license expired 12/31/2023. Company only licensed for 7E(biting fly). Company website advertises brown tail moth control.
License Issue	Email received 5/11/2024. Email raises concern that the company and applicator are not licensed to perform pesticide applications. Proper posting of the application site was not witnessed by caller.
License Issue	Call received 7/11/2024. Caller is concerned about right-of-way herbicide application near their property. Caller is concerned that an area of standing water they use for garden irrigation was impacted. Caller was also concerned that applicators may not have had adequate training to conduct the application.
License Issue	Email received 7/11/2024. Email states that the company is making unlicensed pesticide applications for tree and shrub care.
License Issue	Caller believes this company is not properly licensed to conduct commercial tick and brown tail moth control.
License Issue	Referral from ME CDC Health Inspection Program (HIP) on 8/6/2024. HIP issued an Imminent Health Hazard to restaurant on 7/25/2024 for rodent infestation. Inspection team observed rodent bait and liquid insecticide in kitchen being used by restaurant employees.
License Issue	Call received 9/12/2024. Caller is a manager at a pest control company and was self-reporting the discovery of unlicensed applicators at the business. There were 4 applicators that had passed exams and were certified but did not have active applicator licenses for several applications. Upon the discovery the manager immediately contacted the BPC and renewed and purchased licenses for the 4 individuals. Manager stated they discovered a flaw in their internal employee database that has been corrected to prevent this issue in the future.
License Issue	Email received 9/20/2024. Restaurant was closed for imminent health hazard. Health inspection discovered pesticides in the restaurant being used by restaurant employees to mitigate cockroaches.
Non-Target Effects	Email received on 2/28/2024 raises concern about the migration of the herbicide tebuthiuron from properties at 1 and 3 Metcalf Rd. in Camden onto town property at Laite Memorial Beach and Park.

Non-Target Effects	Received 5/1/2024. Caller is concerned about witnessing a pesticide application during rainy conditions on 5/1/2024. Caller is concerned about runoff of pesticide to surface waters and groundwater contamination.
Non-Target Effects	Call received 6/3/2024. Caller is concerned about pesticide application being made in high winds on 6/3/2024. Caller raises butterflies and honeybees and thought the application was carelessly made given the surroundings.
Non-Target Effects	Call received 7/16/2024. Caller stated that a worker on their property witnessed a roadside spray application that may have extended beyond the right-of-way and into the the property. Caller is concerned that blueberries in front of the property may have been impacted. Caller stated application truck was heading north towards Steuben.
Non-Target Effects	Call received 7/31/2024. Caller is reporting a possible incident that occurred during a ROW in Alna on 7/30/2024. A contractor performing ROW herbicide application is accused over over-spraying onto a private lawn.
Non-Target Effects	Call received 8/16/2024. Caller has a wasp/yellow jacket problem at their unit. The company was hired to mitigate the problem. Caller expected to see a crack & crevice treatment in the location where the wasps emerge. Caller witnessed a heavy spray that dripped down windows, blanketed the flower garden and was visible on a basketball. Caller believes there was an over application and their organic garden was impacted.
Non-Target Effects	Caller was notified by their neighbor that he was putting down bait to kill the numerous rats on the property. The neighbor warned caller to keep her dogs off his property. Caller is concerned about the health effects as well as the sick rodents moving onto her property.
Notification / Posting	Call received 5/7/2024. Caller is member of 2024 Pesticide Notification Registry and was not notified prior to pesticide application that occurred about 1130am on 5/7/2024 at a neighboring property.
Notification / Posting	Email received 5/15/2024. Email is from member of the 2024 Pesticide Notification Registry. Registrant received phone call from company alerting that an application would be occurring today (5/15/2024). Registrant received this call as the application was being made at 1030a on 5/15/2024
Notification / Posting	Email received 7/18/2024. Email states that their landlord is not providing proper notice prior to pesticide applications being made on their rental property as requested.
Notification / Posting	Email received 9/4/2024. Caller is member of the 2024 Pesticide Notification registry. Caller was not notified prior to pesticide application at abutting property on 9/4/2024.
Other	Caller owns a structural pest company. They are reporting an incident with a client that was concerned about rodenticide use. Rodenticide had been used in locked bait boxes. Caller removed all rodenticide from the property.
Other	The caller explains that she hired an application company to treat for small biting or stinging insects inside her home. She states that the applicator was unable to make a positive identification of the pest, but reluctantly made an initial application on or about October 26th 2024 and a secondary application (2 weeks later). The applicator has since refused to treat the home without an identification of the pest.
Pollinators	State Apiarist asked inspection staff to assist with bee kill investigation which may have resulted from pesticides. Email received 7/29/2024.
Pollinators	Call received 8/7/2024. Caller is concerned that their honeybees are not leaving the hives and feeding on honey reserves rather than foraging. Caller is concerned it may be a result of pesticide applications in adjacent alfalfa field.
Retailer	Received 5/30/2024. Restaurant in Stonington was closed due to an IHH following January flood. Maine CDC would like information on applications made at the restaurant to determine proper application.
Spill / Discharge	Call received 3/22/2024. Caller observed rodent bait scattered at an intersection in Belgrade. Caller believes the bait may have fallen out of the back of a moving vehicle. Caller notified the town of Belgrade and was told that the town would have it cleaned up. Caller was concerned about potential exposure to wildlife and pets.
Spill / Discharge	Emails received 5/17 and 6/3/2024 Caller witnessed golf course employee emptying contents of sprayer onto ground behind the garage at the golf course on May 16, 2024. On June 3, 2024, caller witnessed same employee dumping contents of sprayer down the culvert by the 15th hole. Caller is concerned about water contamination from dumping of pesticides.
Storage / Disposal	Maine DEP staff was checking on potato dumps in Aroostook County and discovered a truck load of empty pesticide containers dumped on top of a potato dump site.
Storage / Disposal	Call received 8/5/2024. Caller stated that full bottles of pesticide concentrate are being disposed of in dumpster. Caller also states that applicators are incorporating rodent bait into insulation installation.
Unauthorized Application	Received 5/16/2024. Caller stated that a client thought they should know that Mosquito Squad of Southern Maine had sprayed their property a couple weeks ago. Caller stated that client is only under contract with them for tick and mosquito control services.
Unauthorized Application	Call received 5/22/2024. Caller witnessed spray application occurring at their property at about 930a on 5/22/2024. Caller has not contracted any pesticide applications for their property. Caller stated they have not seen any posting or placards and the company refuses to tell them what was applied.
Unauthorized Application	Call received 6/12/2024. When caller arrived at home on Friday, June 7, 2024 they found an invoice/service record for a tick/mosquito control application conducted at their property. The caller does not contract any company for tick and mosquito control. Caller stated that neighbors confirmed seeing people with backpack sprayers on the property.
Unauthorized Application	Call received 6/13/2024. Caller witnessed a pesticide application occurring at their property on 9/13/2024 at around 8:15am. The caller does not contract with any pesticide application companies. Applicator's truck has no markings or advertisements and the placard placed did not have any information on it. See attached photos.
Unauthorized Application	Call received 6/21/2024. Caller returned home to find what appears to be herbicide damage on their property. Likely associated with an application to control Japanese knotweed at an abutting property. Caller states that crabapples, birch and other vegetation on the property is brown and wilting.
Unauthorized Application	Call received 9/23/2024. Caller is concerned a Landowner is making unauthorized rodenticide treatments in a tenant's occupied space.
Unauthorized Application	Call received 8/13/2024. Caller is self-reporting a spray incident. Caller reported that the ROW spray crew applied to a section of roadway that was not under their contract.
Unauthorized Application	Caller went to his farm on Thursday, August 15, and found his seedlings showing damage and suspects herbicides were applied.
Unauthorized Application	DHHS notified BPC of an unauthorized application within a hospitality facility.
Unauthorized Application	Caller reports that her property was treated by a lawn care company on 10/30/24 without authorization. The caller reports that she contracts with a different company and that she has had a near miss with the company in the past, approximately a year ago. She also reports that it appears this application was nitrogen fertilizer, but that the last time it was pesticide spray for mosquitos. She reports that the company contracts with a different individual whose address is identical but in a different town.
Use Inconsistent with the Label	Emails received 5/25 & 5/26/2024. Caller states that neighbor applied mothballs outdoors and into public way to prevent dogs from entering the property. Caller stated that their dog ate a mothball and fell ill. The local police department responded over the weekend and had the individual clean up all mothballs in the public way. Caller is still concerned about mothballs in the individuals lawn and landscape that may move into the public way.
Use Inconsistent with the Label	Call received 6/26/2024. Caller is concerned that a mosquito and tick control application they witnessed was conducted during high winds. Caller also observed rain shortly after the application.
Use Inconsistent with the Label	Call received 7/30/2024. Caller witnessed a pesticide spray application occurring during rainy conditions this morning.
Use Inconsistent with the Label	Call received 8/19/2024. Caller is concerned about the neighbor's use of mothballs outdoors.
Use Inconsistent with the Label	Call received on 9/12/2024. Caller was walking their dog on 9/10/2024 when they witnessed the dog eat blue rodent bait off the ground. Caller stated that the bait was around a pickup truck on the ground and fully exposed. Caller took dog to emergency veterinary services. Caller is concerned that this is an inappropriate use of rodent baits and that this type of use may continue at the location where the incident occurred and be hazardous to children, pets and wildlife.
Use Inconsistent with the Label	Call received 9/26/2024. Caller is concerned about the use of moth balls outdoors around a neighbor's garage. Caller states that the odor from the mothballs is very strong.

Use Inconsistent with the Label	Call received 10/3/2024. Caller recently purchased the property and believe they have found evidence of bedbugs. Caller is aware that the premises had been treated for bedbugs previously. Caller would like to know what types of bedbug management activities had occurred and could not get information from the company. Caller is concerned that pesticides may not have been applied properly to control the infestation.
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