

Oregon Pesticide Analytical Response Center

The Pesticide Analytical and Response Center (PARC) was created by executive order in 1978 and was reauthorized under the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) as ORS 634.550, in 1991. PARC serves as a single point of contact for anyone who wishes to report a pesticide incident or concern. Calls to PARC are accepted 24 hours a day via 211info, and receive a response from PARC within one business day.

PARC's primary functions are to coordinate investigations and collect and analyze information about reported incidents. Member agencies conduct investigations and take any necessary enforcement action(s). The eight-member agencies include the following: Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODF&W), Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OR OSHA), Office of the State Fire Marshal (SFM), Oregon Poison Center (OPC), Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA). Inter-governmental agreements (IGAs) between PARC and each member agency details how PARC and the member agencies will coordinate pesticide-related investigations.

PARC also enjoys a relationship with consultants from the Oregon Department of Transportation, and toxicology consultants from both the Oregon Health and Sciences University, and Oregon State University.

PARC is mandated to perform the following activities with regard to pesticide-related incidents in Oregon that have suspected health or environmental effects: Collect incident information, mobilize expertise for investigations, identify trends and patterns of problems, make policy or other recommendations for action, report results of investigations, and prepare activity reports for each legislative session.

ODA and DEQ work together closely on the PARC board. Below are some of the main ways the agencies work together to conduct PARC's work.

- The ODA PARC coordinator refers cases to DEQ according to PARC Standard Operating Procedures. Cases are referred to DEQ whenever there is a possible violation of the general pesticide permit, potential impacts to a drinking water source or ground water, or improper disposal of solid waste containing pesticides.
- DEQ has consulted with ODA-PARC during the recent update of its SOPs.
- DEQ participate as appropriate on interagency coordination calls regarding PARC cases and in after-action reviews.