



# STATE OF IDAHO

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ISSUES NOTICES OF VIOLATION IN EXPOSURE CASE**

(BOISE) The Idaho State Department of Agriculture has served Notices of Violation against the aerial applicator, the pilot and labor contractor involved in a July 6 Canyon County case in which 29 farmworkers were exposed to pesticides.

The notices were mailed Monday to Valley Air Service, Inc., pilot Frank Amen and the Marsing Agricultural Labor Sponsoring Committee, Inc., alleging violations of the Worker Protection Standard and pesticide labels.

Additionally, the department mailed a Notice of Violation to Arrowway Farms, Inc., for failure to train its employees and for failure to provide and maintain proper safety information at a central location on the farm.

The case and the department's response to it should serve as a reminder that Idahoans demand the safest conditions for the people who work in Idaho's agriculture industry.

The investigation of the case is considered to be ongoing until either the settlement negotiations or administrative hearing is concluded, and copies of the investigatory file will not be released until then.

However, copies of the Notices of Violation are available now through public records requests, and the farmworkers who were involved in the July 6 incident are urged to request a copy.

The department has a 30-day target to investigate all cases of human pesticide exposure and this case was completed within that 30-day window, despite the number of people involved in the case. The case was treated as the Division of Agricultural Resource's No. 1 priority. Seven employees were called in to assist ISDA investigator Dave Chase, who led the department's investigation.

Valley Air Service faces proposed civil penalties of up to \$12,000. Amen faces proposed civil penalties of up to \$12,000 and/or license suspension. The Marsing Agricultural Labor Sponsoring Committee faces proposed civil penalties of up to \$9,000. Arrowway Farms faces proposed civil penalties of up to \$9,000.

The respondents in the case have the right to request an administrative hearing on this case within 14 days. The respondents may also request a settlement meeting in

which the department will review the facts of the case and attempt to come to resolution. If an agreement cannot be reached, the department may chose to file a formal complaint and present its case at a formal administrative hearing.

Idaho State Department of Agriculture Director Pat Takasugi, a Canyon County farmer, is a member of the Marsing Agricultural Labor Sponsoring Committee, and therefore is not involved in the investigation or settlement discussions.

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture is the lead regulatory agency that investigates cases in which people are exposed to pesticides. Health-related questions are handled jointly with other regulatory agencies. The department's environmental toxicologist, Dr. James Baker, assisted on July 6 in providing proper treatment information to medical personnel who were treating the workers that were exposed to pesticides in this case. The chemicals involved in incident were Lannate LV, Mustang Max and Dithane DF.

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