

HOW DATCP INVESTIGATES COMPLAINTS

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The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection is the State lead agency for enforcing state and federal laws related to pesticides. These include standards for the packaging, labeling, storage, use and disposal of pesticides and their containers. The Agricultural Resource Management Division is the Division assigned to these responsibilities. Besides pesticide regulation the Division is also responsible for enforcing the state's feed and fertilizer laws. The Division responds to and investigates over 200 complaints a year related to our programs. The largest area of complaints does relate to pesticide use.

Over the years, the number of complaints received has declined. The largest decline is in the area of alleged pesticide drift. When complaints are received, the Section of Investigation and Compliance within the Bureau of Agrichemicals Management is the group that responds to complaints. It is important to note that our historical violation rate is under 50%, which means that all complaint investigations are investigated in a neutral manner. The enforcement specialist investigating a complaint is a fact finder, trying to collect all relevant evidence to determine if a violation has occurred.

This presentation will outline the process used to receive, investigate, and determine if violations of law have occurred. The presentation also will outline the compliance responses that may be taken if a violation is documented.

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