



Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center

January 2017

What are our priorities?

The Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center (PNASH) is one of 11 agricultural research and prevention centers funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Founded in 1996, PNASH addresses local needs for our farming, fishing, and forestry work forces, and is now entering a new cycle (2016-2021) with multiple innovative research projects. PNASH works with partners in industry, labor, health services, professional organizations, and academia.

We focus on the needs of vulnerable populations including women, farmworkers, and immigrant forestry workers. Our current priorities include:

- Reducing exposure to high-risk pesticides in agricultural work and communities
- Preventing heat-related illness among agricultural workers
- Addressing serious injuries among dairy, forestry, and commercial fishing workers

What do we do?

- Conduct field studies to evaluate new technologies, controls and practices to reduce hazards.
- Work with industry partners to identify opportunities for system and workplace-based solutions.
- Develop analytical systems for surveillance research that bridge multiple agency data to assess trends and address hazards.
- Practice community-based and participatory action research to understand priorities, and partner in the development of injury and illness prevention programs.
- Select projects on the basis of: the seriousness of the hazard, the number of people affected, and the probability that research will make a difference.

What have we accomplished?

- Released a new pesticide safety training video on Sept 2016 to help growers comply with the revised EPA Worker Protection Standard and field sanitation standards for fieldworkers (e.g., GLOBAL GAP).
- Completed with our research partners 100 interviews and 25 case studies among immigrant Latino forest workers and their employers, with a focus on the cause of serious injuries, what motivated the reporting of the injuries, and how to address safety and medical needs.
- Published new findings on workplace heat stress risk factors, and released bilingual heat illness educational materials that are widely used by health care providers and safety educators.
- Developed and pilot-tested a new mobile App for pesticide handlers that provides pesticide product labels in English and Spanish. (See box to the right).
- Significantly reduced exposures to Washington state (WA) pesticide handlers through PNASH research and collaborations with producers, workers, state agencies, and health care providers. (See figure to the right).

What's next?

- **Safe Dairies:** Partner with WA dairies and 100 newly employed workers to identify effective safety training programs and solutions. Workers can also join a study to assess if there is a "healthy dairy" effect (where workers develop immune benefits). (See figure to the right).
- **Spanish Forest Safety Education:** Create educational resources and glossaries in Spanish for logging and forestry employers and workers.
- **Preventing Workplace Sexual Harassment:** Work with WA employers and women farmworkers to stop abuses and set a national model. [View the trailer](#) of this first-of-its-kind awareness and prevention video
- **Fishing Safety:** Develop new surveillance system, which combines data from NIOSH and US Coast Guard to analyze severe injuries among commercial fishing workers

At-A-Glance

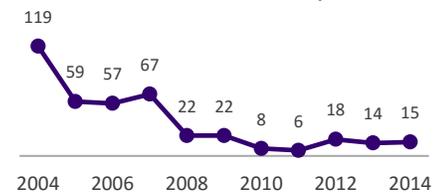
The Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center conducts research and promotes best health and safety practices for Northwest producers and workers in farming, fishing and forestry. This snapshot shows recent accomplishments and upcoming work.

PNASH, located at the University of Washington School of Public Health in Seattle, WA, serves four states in the Pacific Northwest



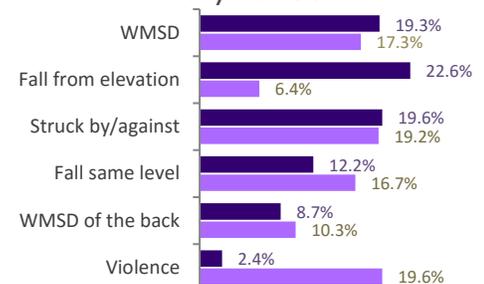
"We've never had something similar in Spanish. Spanish is the handler's language. Our boss never explained to us the labels and we have to consult the labels by ourselves. (With this) It takes me only two to three minutes to consult information I need using the app."
 – Orchard Pesticide Handler piloting app

Number of WA workers handling pesticides with hazardous exposure levels (based on cholinesterase depression)



Source: Washington State Dept. of Labor and Industries

Injury Claims among WA Agriculture and Dairy Workers



Source: WA Workers' Compensation Compensable Claims, 2009-2013 Note: WMSD= Work-related musculoskeletal disorder. Violence includes attacks by animals.

