

BETTER NOTIFICATION REQUIRED: **Municipal and Commercial PESTICIDE SPRAYING**

The Anchorage Assembly is now considering important updates to the Municipality's pesticide ordinance. **The pesticide ordinance hasn't been reviewed in almost 20 years. This update will improve notification of pesticide** sprayings and make it easier for working families to know what and when pesticides are being used around them.

Reasons to Update Anchorage's Pesticide Ordinance:

- When targeting unwanted insects, weeds, and other pests, the Municipality of Anchorage and contracted applicators **often use toxic pesticides correlated to serious health risks** for children and adults, fish, birds, and pets.
- Often sprayings and applications occur on **routine schedules without adequate public notice**.
- Lack of notification increases the risk of exposure to pesticides, which can occur during routine pesticide spraying in Town Square Park and the Delaney Park Strip.

Updated Code To Ensure Responsible Notification of Pesticide Spraying:

- Increased time of notification: The proposed updates would require at least **48 hours prior** notification of pesticide spraying and signs to remain posted at least **48 hours after** application. Current code only requires notice "at least 24 hours before application".
- Larger area notified: Notifications would be posted on the property to be treated in addition to residents and commercial establishments within 150 feet of the property to be treated. Current code only requires notice to "contiguous" properties.
- Clearer notification: Notices would require more complete & accessible information.

Action Needed Before June 22nd: Contact Assembly Members

Tell them that you SUPPORT the proposed changes to the pesticide ordinance and it is important that the public has a right to know what pesticides are being used around them.

Assembly Chairman Dick Traini	561-4526 dtraini@gci.net
Assemblywoman Anna Fairclough	694-7090 annafair@alaska.net
Assemblyman Dan Coffey	343-4117 (voice mail) coffeydk@ci.anchorage.ak.us
Assemblywoman Janice Shamberg	343-4125 jcshamberg@gci.net
Assemblyman Dick Tremaine	345-0157 or 343-4122 (voice mail) tremained@muni.org
Assemblywoman Debbie Ossiander	688-2308 or 343-4113 (voice mail) ossiander@gci.net
Assemblyman Ken Stout	343-4119 (voice mail) stouko@ci.anchorage.ak.us
Assemblyman Dan Sullivan	243-0998 sullivan@muni.org



To learn more visit www.akaction.org or call 222-7714

Don't know your Anchorage Assembly representative? Call the City Clerk's office: 343-4311

Please THANK the Assembly sponsors of the amendments to the pesticide ordinance:

Assemblyman Brian Whittle 343-4120 (voice mail) whittlebk@muni.org

Assemblywoman Pamela Jennings 343-4115 (voice mail) jenningspk@ci.anchorage.ak.us

Assemblyman Allan Tesche 276-3284 or 566-1784 (voice mail) teschea@muni.org

More Facts about Proposed Updates to the Muni Pesticide Code:

- ❖ Anchorage residents and visitors have **right to know** where, when, and what toxic pesticides are being sprayed so they can choose to avoid exposure, particularly by adjusting pet care, removing outdoor toys, closing windows, etc..
- ❖ “Pesticide Application” notices would remain up *after* spraying is required, alerting citizens to **pesticide residues** that may pose significant health risks. Some pesticides used by the Municipality have been studied to **persist up to 120 days**.
- ❖ The Municipality of Anchorage is acting **responsibly** by ensuring timely and complete notification of pesticide spraying.
- ❖ Notices would **NOT be required for homeowner use of pesticides**. The city ordinance still applies only to “custom, commercial or contract applicators”.
- ❖ Notices would **NOT be required for use of personal application of aerosol cans** against biting and stinging insects.
- ❖ The **Anchorage School District improved notification of pesticide use** and required least-toxic pest control methods in 2000, implementing a successful change in the pest management program.
- ❖ Notification does not give individuals or businesses the right to stop the Municipality or a neighbor from having their property sprayed with pesticides.

Pesticides Pose Serious Short-term and Chronic Health Hazards

- Certain pesticides used by the Municipality and contracted applicators have been **linked to serious health problems including cancer, reduced fertility, abnormal sperm, birth defects, neurological diseases and hormone disruption**.
- Many pesticides are “**highly toxic**” or “**extremely toxic**” to fish, bees and birds.
- Recent peer-reviewed studies demonstrate that **very low-level exposure to specific pesticides can result in effects long after the initial exposure occur**.
- **Children are particularly vulnerable** to the toxic effects of pesticides.



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