

# THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



## Department of Agricultural Resources

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**TO:** LICENSED/CERTIFIED PESTICIDE APPLICATORS

**FROM:** TARYN LASCOLA-MINER, DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF CROP AND PEST SERVICES

**REGARDING:** MOSQUITO AND TICK PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS

**DATE:** JUNE 5, 2019

For the past several years, the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, Pesticide Enforcement Division ("Department") has seen an increase in drift complaints relative to mosquito and tick applications. In many cases after conducting investigations into these complaints, the Department confirmed that drift or other violations occurred. These drift complaints involve neighboring properties typically abutting or across from the areas at which the application occurred. In addition, some of the complaints involve applicators not recognizing property lines and making an application directly to the abutting property.

While the Department recognizes the need for mosquito and tick control, it has become concerned with the volume of complaints and violations that are coming from these types of applications. Using Best Management Practice will help reduce the risk of drift and violations.

### **Best Management Practices**

- Ensure your applicator has been adequately trained in the use of the equipment being used during the application.
- Establish property lines once on site before making any application.
- Conduct a perimeter walk before making the application to establish any sensitive areas.
- Consider the product that is being used and ensure that it is the best product given the area you are treating.
- Consider the droplet size coming out of your equipment.
- Consider adding a drift retardant to your tank mix.
- Do not spray up to the property line.
- Understand the movement of the product when you make an application.
- Do not apply when windy or when conditions may favor drift.
- Consider using an alternative method to a motorized backpack sprayer if there is a chance of drift.

If violations continue to increase, the Department may need to seek additional changes and potential regulatory requirements to address these types of applications.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Department.