



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES

Safety and Health Assessment and Research for Prevention Program

Promoting Safer, Healthier, Workplaces

August 19, 2013

<Employer Name>

<Address>

<Address>

Dear Employer,

This letter is to alert you and your workers to possible respiratory disease from breathing hop dust.

We ask that you take time **during the hop harvest** to monitor whether any workers have breathing problems.

If you have workers with breathing problems from hop dust:

- Consider transferring them to a position without exposure to hop dust.
- Ask the worker to see a health care provider.
- Continued exposure may lead to worse health outcomes.

To protect your workers, please consider the following steps:

- Assess the exposures to hop dust at your facility.
 - Exposure to concentrated dust should be minimized or avoided by all workers
- Educate and train workers on the hazards of agricultural dusts, like hop dust.
- Get more information and help:
 - Please call the SHARP Program at 1-888-667-4277 if you would like more information and guidance on assessing exposures or reducing worker exposure to hop dust. SHARP is a **non-regulatory** research and prevention program in the Department of Labor and Industries. For SHARP research projects, employer identity is protected by law.*

Sincerely,

Dave Bonauto, MD
Occupational Physician

Carolyn Whitaker, MS, CIH
Certified Industrial Hygienist

SHARP Program: <http://www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/Research>

* RCW 49.17.210 Employer identity, employee identity, and personal identifiers of voluntary participants in research, experiments, and demonstrations shall be deemed confidential and shall not be open to public inspection.