

Fact Sheet – Fire Retardant

As humans, pets and livestock return to areas impacted by wildfires, it is possible that they will come into contact with the chemical residues from fire retardants used in the effort to control those fires. Depending upon the type of chemicals used in the retardant, the following precautions and actions should be considered:

1. Regardless of type of retardant, any exposed stock tank should be drained, hosed clean if possible, and refilled with clean water.
2. Wash retardant residue off structures as soon as possible after fire danger has passed.
3. Rinse standing vegetation if possible to avoid leaf burn and other over-fertilization-like impacts.
4. Thoroughly wash garden produce, fruits and vegetables before using.
5. Shampoo exposed pets and hose off livestock if possible. Avoid leaving standing water contaminated with retardant if possible.
6. Assess the level of contamination on grazing land, pasture and other areas or surfaces and take appropriate precautionary or remediation actions as needed to reduce risk of harmful contact.

For more information on these and related topics, see “clean-up” pdf, attached.



cleanup.pdf

7. If possible, determine the type of retardant used in the area. Check with the Interagency Fire Center, local Emergency Management office, Incident Command (if still active), or other official sources. Specific health risks, clean-up procedures and other responses may depend on the type of retardant used. Principal types include Ammonium Nitrate, Potassium Nitrate, and Diammonium Phosphate. Ingestion of large quantities can pose significant health risks for humans and animals, ranging from irritation and diarrhea to death.
8. The red coloration of most retardants is caused by Iron Oxide, which also poses a health risk to animals and humans in concentrated exposures and should be avoided.

Resources for assessing, responding to and addressing retardant exposure include the following:



General Info
Toxicity,env concern



MSDS LC-95A-R.pdf



LC_95A_R Product
info.pdf



Env
risk_ExecSum_2014.p

9. Additional information can also be found at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/fire/>
10. For more information consult veterinary and health care professionals.