

# Symptoms or Illness Potentially Related to Pesticides Used in LBAM Trapping and Eradication Program in California 2008

Please send form to: [ReactionToSpraying@yahoo.com](mailto:ReactionToSpraying@yahoo.com) or P.O. Box 1612, Pebble Beach, Ca, 93953

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===== (vDSC2)

**Symptoms and Duration** of Each Symptom (example "tingling on skin – Thursday at 11am")

July 8, 2008 I attended a hearing at the Board of Supervisors in Sonoma County, in order to provide expert testimony about the dangers of the twist ties, which residents were resisting having placed around their homes. As a former resident of the Sonoma Valley, it was personally important for me to testify, since my children and I, as well as other neighbors, had to abandon our homes there as a result of pesticide poisoning. Normally when I attend meetings I stay in the back of the room by the doors, but because pesticide traps had been set up outside the doors, I sat in the front. Suddenly Moira Sullivan, the representative of the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, pulled a bag of twist ties out of a bag and when she waved them around I instantly had a scratchy throat, my throat felt full, and I had the need to keep clearing it, on the verge of an asthma attack. I started hacking, I had brain fog and fragmented thinking, a debilitating headache, and nausea. The scratchy throat went on for at least two weeks, the full throat, clearing throat, heavy hacking went on for over a month. In the hearing room I had tingling, a feeling of pins and needles, in my fingers, in my feet and leg, and in my upper thighs. It felt like my blood sugar shot up dramatically, and like my blood pressure was raised. I had to leave the hearing room, and had to stay in the hallway, away from the doors to the hearing, because traps were set up outside, so I could not stand outside doors even to listen. I'd been alerted by CDFA's Robert Leavitt that Ann Maurice was going to set up a table with "pheromone" traps. I called her, alarmed, left messages, not to bring them, that they could sicken people. After the exposures, I could not drive safely because of brain fog, extreme nausea, and splitting headache, and could not go outside because pesticides are used on county grounds, so I had to stay in the hallway, never fully able to get away from the table full of traps, while the hearing continued, until I was reasonably safe to drive. When leaving the hearing building I realized I still was not safe to drive home, so I joined others for lunch, and waited it out until it was safe to drive back to the East Bay. A couple of days later I noticed a couple of swollen lymph nodes on my neck. They remained swollen for a month and a half. Over the ensuing days I had extreme exhaustion, had to sleep extreme amounts, and had to take naps. It not only cut into my daily life, but my children's, and it was scary for them. For a couple of weeks my body temperature went down, and has been fluctuating since then. Over the next weeks, and continuing to the present, I've had a lot of difficulty putting thoughts together. The couple of weeks following I dropped several dishes and glass bottles, suddenly losing my grip on them, which is not typical in my life, and only occurs in relationship to significant chemical exposures. I've been having food and drinks just slipping out of my mouth, because of "loose lips", and have had an uneven gait

while walking since then, often falling to the right, banging into people with whom I'm walking. I've also been having blurry vision. My first menstrual cycle following that exposure, after over three years of my menstruation being perfectly predictable like clockwork, was a couple of days early, lasted for 13 days, was darker than normal, and included clots, which is not normal for me. The next menstrual cycle was a week late, and the bleeding again lasted 13 days, with deep red, stagnant looking blood, and several large clots. It appears that this exposure has jumped me into menopause. As of today, I am once more late, waiting for my cycle to commence. About a month and a half following that exposure I developed a numb patch on my upper right thigh, around the spot where I was tingling in the hearing room, and a few days later I developed a numb patch on my upper left thigh. Around that time period I developed several large boils on my upper legs. About the beginning of September I woke up one morning with the fingers on my right hand tingling, a little bloated, and numb. Even with a lot of soaking with salt water they remained numb. The next morning all the fingers on the left hand were numb and bloated, and again soaking didn't help. Since that time period there's a little bit of numbness remaining in all the fingers and thumbs. My right leg was twitching dramatically when I was sitting down recently, not something I experience in my typical daily life. Since the exposure my blood sugar has been dangerously high, apparently non-stop, and monitored regularly. I have a history of frequently-monitored blood pressure that's always been considered normal, but two different doctors seen since the exposure have found my blood pressure to be high, and one of them found significantly different blood pressure on each side, which he identified as a problem in addition to high blood pressure.

**Date & Time** symptoms began July 8, 2008, 9:20a.m.

**Geographic Location** where you first experienced symptoms Santa Rosa, California

**Any Previous General Health Problems** (such as asthma, weak immune system) MCS; Asthma; Diabetes; Low Thyroid problems; weak immune system, all due to pesticide poisoning

Were you aware of pesticide applications before symptoms began? No (Yes/No)

Did you Hear Planes Flying Overhead? N/A (Yes/No) Did you see Twist Ties Nearby? Yes (Yes/No)

Did you see Traps? Yes (Yes/No) Other Pesticide Applications? No (Yes/No) (Describe what you saw below)

Any other relevant information (attach additional pages if necessary) \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California the foregoing is true and correct.**

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_ Maxina Ventura

**Executed this** 30th **day of** September, **2008, at (location:)** San Leandro, **California**

## Addendum

October 15, 2008

Following exposure 7/8/08 to the LBAM twist ties and "pheromone" traps at the public hearing in Sonoma County regarding residents' refusal to allow the twist ties to be placed around their homes, my menstrual cycles have been off-schedule and have presented differently than normal for me. As reported, the first two cycles included almost 2 weeks of bleeding; the third cycle also arrived late, and it included 11 days of bleeding. Apparently, I ovulated on day 12, quite early for me.

My blood sugar levels are still dramatically, dangerously high, though heading downward with a lot of interventions.