

## **2,4,5-T Herbicide Key Messages**

### **The herbicide**

- 2,4,5-T (2,4,5-Trichlorophenoxyacetic acid), is a herbicide formulated as various esters and salts (propylene glycol butyl ether ester, amine salt, butoxyethyl ester, low volatile esters).
- It was used in forestry management and by power utilities, among others, to suppress unwanted trees, weeds and brush.
- There were 250 herbicide products registered for use in Canada between 1948 and 1985 that contained some form of 2,4,5-T either by itself or in combination with other herbicides, including with 2,4-D, picloram, dicamba, and paraquat.
- The herbicides were approved by Agriculture Canada at the time and met the standard of the day.

### **Agent Orange**

- Agent Orange was a specific chemical mixture made for U.S. military use in Vietnam.
- Agent Orange was never approved for use in Canada and was never used in Ontario.
- Agent Orange was only tested at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown briefly in the 1960's. While it was known to be a combination of herbicides including 2,4,5-T and 2,4-D, the actual content including that of dioxin (TCDD) is not completely known.
- Between 1948 and 1985, there were 250 herbicide products approved for use in Canada that contained 2,4,5-T either by itself or in combination with other pesticides such as 2,4-D, picloram, and dicamba, but none of these was Agent Orange.

**Dioxin**

- The 2,4,5-T herbicide was found to be contaminated with dioxin (TCDD) in the early 1970s, and the manufacturing process was improved to significantly reduce the contaminant. The federal government placed limits on this contaminant in 1975.
- Dioxin was eventually eliminated from herbicides because of concerns over potential health and environmental effects.
- 2,4,5-T registration was discontinued in Canada in 1985.

**Health effects**

- The Ministry of Natural Resources has briefed the Chief Medical Officer of Health on the possible exposure of workers to 2,4,5-T herbicide when it was used by employees in the '50s, '60s and '70s.
- Anyone with information or concern about the use of this herbicide during this period may call the Ministry of Natural Resources toll-free at 1-888-338-3364.
- As the possible exposure may have been related to work, anyone with concerns or questions about potential work-related illness is asked to call a special telephone hotline set up by the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) at 1-800-387-0750 (press 1 for English or 2 for French) then press 1 and then 4163444440 to reach an agent during business hours.
- The Chief Medical Officer of Health will continue to monitor the situation as more information is gathered regarding past use of the herbicide in Ontario.