

Executive Summary

More than 100 Monterey area citizens have complained of unusual symptoms following the aerial spraying of a synthetic pheromone on September 9, 10, 11 and 12, 2007. Some of the reported adverse reactions were severe, and three required emergency intervention at the Community Hospital of Monterey County.

These citizen complaints have been sent to a little-publicized email address, ReactiontoSpraying@yahoo.com. Adverse reactions could be more widespread, since many citizens do not know about this reporting mechanism.

One ER case involved a one-year-old boy, the son of an Air Force Major stationed at the Naval Post Graduate School. The boy had severe breathing problems and was in the hospital for three days the week of the spraying. Unfortunately, after being discharged, the boy had a relapse and, as of October 3, was back in the hospital, this time at a Stanford affiliated hospital. The two other ER visits were adults who also had respiratory problems following the spraying.

Other complaints have included:

- Sore throats
- Nasal congestion, runny noses and sneezing
- Coughing (sometimes “wheezing”)
- Asthma attacks
- Bronchial irritation
- Lung congestion and soreness
- Tightness in chest
- Difficulty breathing and shortness of breath
- Skin rashes (sometimes severe)
- Eye irritation
- Headaches (sometimes debilitating)
- Dizziness
- Muscle aches
- Intestinal pain
- Nausea
- Feelings of lethargy, malaise and an inability to focus

Some people likened their illnesses to an allergic reaction. One woman said, “I feel like I am sick but I'm not sick.” Some visited their doctors, yet others said they did not because of the time and expense.

A number of people said they had left the area during the spraying and experienced the symptoms immediately upon returning. Others said they experienced symptoms shortly after leaving their homes the morning after their neighborhoods were sprayed. Some reported that several members of their families experienced unusual symptoms at the same time the week of the spraying.