

PPQ Deputy's Safeguarding Award Submission Form

1. Name, Address, Job Title, and Phone Number of Nominee (if a group is being submitted, provide the contact information for the group leader and the names and affiliation of all members of the group)

Joe Messineo, State Plant Health Director, Ripley, West Virginia, 304-372-8590, Group Leader
Thomas Chanelli, Assistant Regional Director, Raleigh, NC, 919-855-7316
Victor Harabin, Assistant Regional Director, Raleigh, NC
Calvin Shuler, Senior Program Manager, Pest Risk/AQI
John Stewart, Domestic Senior Program Manager, Raleigh, NC
Willie Harris, Director, SITC, Raleigh, NC
Paul Larkins, Regional Program Manager, AQI, Raleigh, NC
Jason Watkins, Pest Survey Specialist, Ripley, West Virginia

2. Describe the action that enhanced safeguarding.

The action that enhanced safeguarding was the integration of information about risk (EAN's) (PIN309) (SITC) to optimize our pest detection efforts. By using information about import patterns, pest interceptions, and fumigations, we are better positioned to focus pest detection to areas that are at the highest risk for pest introduction, thereby allowing for early detection and rapid response. The action that enhanced safeguarding was the utilization of the different recommendations by a team composed of individuals with different backgrounds and skills. Each person drew from their perspective of what the Safeguarding Report meant and the combined effort brought many of the concepts together into one program.

3. How did the action enhance safeguarding?

The Hot Zone is the culmination of the Safeguarding recommendations and the end-product of risk and pathway analysis. It draws on experience from all aspects of APHIS, PPQ and the result is defined areas that are of the higher risk for pest and disease outbreak.

The PPQ ER Hot Zone program draws from many of the Safeguarding recommendations and combines them into a risk-based program that crosses the whole Safeguarding continuum. It utilizes risk information from overseas, ports of entry, databases, SITC, OPIS etc and targets areas for domestic program evaluation and implementation for early detection and rapid response. The safeguarding report recommended use of sentinel sites and this is a product of the Hot Zone. The Hot Zone is used to ensure early detection and Rapid Response. The Hot Zone also supports the efforts of Homeland Security in that it systematically defines areas that are vulnerable to introductions whether intentional or random. The Hot Zone program will help prepare PPQ in the arena of bioterrorism and securing the food supply by identifying areas and focusing resources on these vulnerable areas. It also supports the APHIS strategic goals of early detection and rapid response.

4. How does it demonstrate innovation or initiative? The Hot Zone Concept was a team effort that combined skills in AQI inspections, risk analysis, offshore pest information, smuggling and trade compliance, and domestic survey. This team effort is the first to bring all of those aspects together into one program.

5. Which of the four areas of the Safeguarding Review does the activity support?
Pest Exclusion, Pest Detection and Response, International Pest Information.

6. What recommendation or safeguarding principle does the action support?

The Hot Zone program uses several of the OA recommendations: OA-9, OA-29, OA-31, OA-34, OA-48, OA-50, OA-58, OA-62, E-76, E-77, E-107, D-3a, D-13 and D-25.

7. Provide any information that demonstrates the outcome/success of the activity.

In one Eastern Region (ER) state, information was gleaned from the EAN database that led to an importer of machinery that had Solid Wood Packing Material (SWPM). Further violations of SWPM and insects were discovered. This created a Hot Zone within the state since the importer had been bringing in similar material for several years. A trapping program was designed for the area around the importer. PPQ employees were able to educate the importer on the risks associated with SWPM and the PPQ mission in general. The importer gave PPQ the country of origin information that was forwarded to the PPQ ER office. PPQ ER personnel contacted IS personnel in Riverdale, who contacted the IS officer in the foreign country who worked with the Ministry of Agriculture and the shipper in-country. By educating the shipper in the foreign country about risks associated with SWPM, compliance was gained and the commodity to the U.S. was cleaned-up reducing the risk to U.S. agriculture. This example describes the whole process of safeguarding using risk data, public outreach, detection and response planning and utilizing IS to work in-country to eliminate the pathway.

Attached is a draft of the “Hot Zone Trapping Concept-Targeting Exotic Pest Introduction Pathways”. On-site training of this program occurred at the 2003 Eastern Region SPHD meeting in Lancaster, Pennsylvania as well as on-site specific training in Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Florida, New York, and New Jersey.