

# Few report getting ill from moth spraying

Light brown apple moth

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✓ SANTA CRUZ — The state received just seven official reports of health problems from county residents last month after spraying large swaths of the county with a pesticide to fight the invasive light brown apple moth.

That's compared to 44 official reports filed by residents of Monterey County when they were sprayed earlier this fall, and one from a Santa Clara County resident, said Steve Lyle, spokesman for the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

Respiratory problems, such as coughing or shortness of breath, topped the list of complaints, Lyle said. "Neurologic sensory" issues were next, including complaints of muscle pain or cramping, headache, foul taste or dizziness.

The state also received 117 telephone complaints from Santa Cruz County residents who did not want to leave their name, contact information or details of their symptoms, but

those reports cannot be considered official because they are incomplete, Lyle said.

Those residents "called and said, 'I'm sick and I think it's because of the apple moth project,'" Lyle said.

The state began spraying Monterey and Santa Cruz counties earlier this fall with a pheromone to fight the light brown apple

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**'There were a significant number of calls on one evening and the next morning of people reporting they were ill from the spraying, and the spraying didn't happen that night.'**

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