What is Spray Drift

The EPA defines spray or dust drift as:
"the physical movement of pesticide droplets or particles through the air at the time of pesticide application or soon thereafter from the target site to any non- or off-target site. Spray [drift shall not] include movement of pesticides to non- or off-target sites caused by erosion, migration, volatility, or windblown soil particles that occurs after application or application of fumigants unless specifically addressed on the product label with respect to drift control requirements."

What to do right after a drift incident:

1. Identify area affected.
2. Document the date, time and growth stage of the grapes.
3. If possible, identify the source of the drift and make a determination if you want to settle this problem between friends or foes.
4. Contact your State Department of Agriculture if you cannot determine source of the drift and/or you want to formalize the complaint ASAP (30 - 45 day deadline in many states).
5. Flag a selection of affected and unaffected plants, take high resolution pictures weekly until symptoms subside and measure final yields per plant.
6. Severe injury settlements should be held off until after next season’s harvest. Photo and yield documentation should be continued.

Note: Insurance Companies want to settle ASAP!

Photo Tips

Suggest using a tape measure, ruler or yardstick in the background when taking pictures.

Note date and time of each photo.

Weather Underground Wundermap

http://www.wunderground.com/wundermap
Where to find a drift consultant:

1. University Weed Specialist
2. State Crop Consultant Association
3. National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants
4. National Association of Insurance Adjusters
5. State Horticulture or Nursery & Landscape Association
6. Experienced Vineyard Managers
7. State Arborist Association
8. American Society of Agronomy Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) or Certified Professional Agronomist (CPAg)
9. WWW Search for: “Pesticide Drift Consultant”