Reporting Fire Chemical Misapplication

Wildland fire chemicals can have substantial negative impacts on aquatic life as well as some terrestrial species and cultural values. Therefore, it is very important to avoid application of fire chemicals into waterways and maintain familiarity with agency and local jurisdiction policies for aerial and ground delivery of wildland fire chemicals.

Some agencies require avoidance and reporting for all wildland fire chemical misapplications into waterways, 300-foot riparian buffer zones, threatened and endangered species habitat, or mapped avoidance areas. Inform your supervisor and/or READ/F if you encounter fire chemicals which may have been misapplied into any of these locations.

- A waterway is any body of water including lakes, rivers, streams, and ponds whether or not they contain aquatic life.
- The 2009 Interagency Federal Policy for Aerial Delivery of Wildland Fire Chemicals near Waterways provides additional details, including exceptions.