


# Pesticide Emergency Medical Care

## *EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITIES*



COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE  
SEPTEMBER 2018



1 Pesticide Safety Training for Employees Handling Pesticides

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Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR)

*California's worker safety regulations specify safe work practices for employees who **handle** pesticides or work in **treated fields** (fieldworkers, early-entry fieldworkers). This booklet summarizes your responsibilities as an employer to arrange in advance for emergency medical care for employees handling pesticides or working in treated fields on your property.*

This booklet does not replace product label information, the Pesticide Safety Information Series (PSIS) leaflets, or the California Code of Regulations. It is a reference tool that summarizes specific regulatory requirements and responsibilities that you – the employer – must follow. You are encouraged to contact the agricultural commissioner's office in the county or counties where you operate for any additional requirements specific to your area.

See "**Definitions You Need to Know**" at the back of this booklet for explanations of highlighted words.



## **What You Need to Do**

**PLAN** in advance, **Emergency Medical Care** for all employees who *handle* pesticides or who enter *treated fields*.

- **Locate** a facility where emergency care is available for both handler-employees and fieldworker-employees.
- **Inform** handler-employees and fieldworker-employees (or their supervisor) of the name and location of a physician or medical care facility where emergency medical care is available.
- **Post** in a prominent place at the work site, or work vehicle if there is no designated work site, the name, address, and telephone number of a facility able to provide emergency medical care.

- **Inform** employees of the procedures to be followed to obtain emergency medical care, if the identified facility is not reasonably accessible from the work location.

**ASSURE** that the employee is taken to a physician immediately:

- When there are reasonable grounds to suspect that an employee has a pesticide illness, or
- When an exposure to a pesticide has occurred that might reasonably be expected to lead to an employee's illness.

**PROVIDE** to medical personnel treating an employee in the production of an agricultural commodity for a suspected pesticide exposure:

- Copies of the Safety Data Sheet, product name, U.S. EPA registration number, and name of active ingredient(s) for each pesticide product the employee may have been exposed to.
- Circumstances of application or use of the pesticide.
- Circumstances that could have resulted in exposure to the pesticide.



## What If You Don't Comply?

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) and the County Agricultural Commissioners enforce California pesticide laws and regulations. It is your responsibility to assure that employees handle and use pesticides in accordance with the requirements of law, regulations, and pesticide product labeling requirements.

If you follow the worker safety requirements, you protect your employees' health, the environment, and yourself. If you do not comply, you violate federal and state law. DPR and the County Agricultural Commissioners have the authority to levy substantial penalties on persons who violate pesticide laws. Penalties range from \$50 for minor violations to \$5,000, and/or imprisonment for certain violations that have "created or reasonably could have created a hazard to human health or the environment." Also, persons who hold a license or certificate issued by DPR and who



are found in violation can have their license or certificate suspended or revoked.

## **Definitions You Need to Know**

**Handle** – means mixing, loading, transferring, applying (including chemigation), or assisting with the application (including flagging) of pesticides (it does not include: local, state, or federal officials performing inspection, sampling, or other similar duties). Also, it includes:

- Incorporating (mechanically or by watering-in) pesticides in the soil.
- Maintaining, servicing, repairing, cleaning, or handling equipment used in these activities that may contain residues.
- Working with opened (including emptied but not rinsed) containers of pesticides.
- Adjusting, repairing, or removing treatment site coverings.
- Entry into a treated area during any application or before the inhalation exposure level listed on pesticide product labeling has been reached, or enclosed space ventilation criteria have been met.
- Performing the duties of a crop adviser, including field checking or scouting, making observations of the well-being of plants, or taking samples during an application or during any restricted entry interval listed on pesticide product labeling.

**Treated Field** – means a field that has been treated with a pesticide or had a restricted entry interval in effect within the last 30 days. It includes associated roads, paths, ditches, borders, and headlands, if the pesticide was also directed to those areas (it does not include areas inadvertently contaminated by drift or overspray).

**Fieldworker** – means any person who, for any kind of compensation, performs cultural activities in a field. This does not include performing tasks as a crop adviser, including field checking or scouting, making observations of the well-being of the plants, or taking samples, nor does it include local, state, or federal officials performing inspection, sampling, or other similar duties.

**Early-Entry** – means entry into a treated field or other area after the pesticide application is complete, but before the restricted entry interval or other restrictions on entry for that pesticide have expired.







**DANGER**  
**CONFINED SPACE  
KEEP OUT**

**PESTICIDE EMERGENCY INFORMATION**

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Chemical name: |  |
| Dilution Rate: |  |
| Chemical used: |  |
| Dilution Rate: |  |
| Chemical used: |  |
| Dilution Rate: |  |
| Chemical used: |  |
| Dilution Rate: |  |
| Chemical used: |  |
| Dilution Rate: |  |
| Grower:        |  |
| Address:       |  |
| Doctor:        |  |
| Address:       |  |

**Poison Control Emergency Telephone Numbers**  
University of California  
Poison Control Center  
1-800-342-9293

Chemtrac  
1-800-424-9300

**Agricultural Fungicide**

**KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN  
CAUTION**

If you have questions or need more information, please contact your local County Agricultural Commissioner's office or call toll free 1-877-378-5463 (1-87PestLine).

A complete set of these booklets is available online from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation's website at: **[www.cdpr.ca.gov](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov)**

Dept. of Industrial Relations Heat Illness Prevention:  
**[www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/heatillnessinfo.html](http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/heatillnessinfo.html)**



**Food and Agricultural Code Div. 7 Agricultural Chemicals, Livestock Remedies, and Commercial Feed. 12996; Title 3. California Code of Regulations 6000, 6128, 6130, 6726, 6766.**



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