

PESTICIDE SAFETY

Information



A No. 8 poster

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Safety Rules for Pesticide Handlers in Agricultural Settings

The pesticide label, your training, and the Pesticide Safety Information Series (PSIS) leaflets tell you about pesticide dangers at work. To handle pesticides in agriculture on farms, forests, nurseries or greenhouses) you must be at least 18 years old.

Your employer must teach you how to use pesticides safely and how to protect yourself when you use them. Pesticides are chemicals that are used to control pests: unwanted insects, predatory animals, rodents, weeds, and plant diseases. Spray adjuvants are also pesticides under California law.

EMPLOYERS: This is the hazard communication leaflet for pesticide handlers. Fill in the blank lines in this leaflet and display a copy of this handout at a central location in the workplace (such as an employee break room). This leaflet must also be posted or all permanent decontamination facilities and decontamination facilities serving 11 or more handlers. If requested, you must read this leaflet to an employee in a language the employee understands.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE

Your employer must make plans for emergency medical care before you start working with pesticides. If you think that pesticides made you sick or hurt you, immediately tell your employer. They must make sure that you are taken to a doctor right away. **DO NOT TAKE YOURSELF.**

Emergency medical care is available:

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
TELEPHONE: _____

If more space is needed, your employer may attach a list of medical facilities to this leaflet and write. See attached list in the above space. If this information changes, your employer must update it within 24 hours.

REMEMBER: You DO NOT have to pay for medical care if you get sick or hurt from pesticides at work.

IF YOU THINK

pesticides have made you sick at work, immediately tell your employer. Your employer must make sure that you are taken to the doctor IMMEDIATELY.

WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS?

Your employer must explain your rights to you. If you need help understanding your rights, call or go to your local County Agricultural Commissioner's office, local legal aid and workers' rights organization, or the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR).

1. Right to Know

You have the right to know the following about pesticides that have been used recently where you work:

- The name of the pesticide and where the treated area is
- When the application started and ended
- The restricted entry interval (REI)

• Name of the pesticide, U.S. EPA registration number, and active ingredients(1)

• The Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for the applied pesticide. The SDS tells you about the pesticide and its dangers.

As part of your training, your employer must tell you where this information is kept. Your employer must also let you see the records anytime you want without having to ask for them.

You can find information about RECENT pesticide use:

(Employers: This is the application-specific information)

ADDRESS: _____

If this location changes, your employer must promptly tell you of the new location.

4. Right to Obtain Information

You, your doctor, or your representative designated in writing can receive information about a pesticide exposure, or any other pesticide record your employer is required to keep.

5. Right to Report Unsafe Conditions

Pesticide safety for workers is the top priority of the County Agricultural Commissioner and DPR. You have the right to report unsafe pesticide work conditions and suspected pesticide use violations that are being punished or fired. Neither the grower nor your employer can discriminate who makes a complaint. Your statements about the safety problems must be checked out right away.

6. Right to Be Protected From Retaliation

You are protected from being fired, discriminated, and from any retaliatory action due to the exercise of any of your rights.



WHO DO I TELL ABOUT DANGERS AT WORK?

Pesticides can be any kind of danger at your work. If you have a complaint about a pesticide safety problem, call your County Agricultural Commissioner. You can look up the Commissioner's number in the government pages of your local phone book, or by calling DPR's information line, 1-877-PestLine (1-877-378-5463). If you have other health and safety complaints (bathrooms, heat stress, drinking water, etc.) file them with your local County Department of Industrial Relations Cal/OSHA office by calling: 1-844-522-6734.

WHAT PESTICIDE TRAINING SHOULD I GET?

Your employer must give you training in a way that you understand BEFORE you begin working with pesticides, and anyone you work with pesticides.

You must get training EACH YEAR to remind you how to work with pesticides safely.

Your employer must:

- Tell you the ways a pesticide can hurt you and how to safely use each pesticide you work with (ask your employer for the A-7 safety leaflet to learn more about training).
- Tell you how to move pesticides from one place to another, or dispose of empty pesticide containers. If you think your employer must tell you about this, ask for the A-7 safety leaflet for more information.

• Give you extra training if you use engineering controls such as closed mixing systems (ask your employer for the A-3 safety leaflet).

• Train you on first aid and emergency decontamination (ask your employer for the A-4 safety leaflet).

• Give you extra training if you have to use a respirator (ask your employer for the A-5 safety leaflet).

• Train you to wash your clothes separately from other clothes before wearing them again (ask your employer for the A-7 safety leaflet).

Other safety leaflets mentioned in the document should be part of your training.

They are free and are available from your employer, your County Agricultural Commissioner, or DPR's information line, 1-877-PestLine (1-877-378-5463).

All the information about your training must be written down. You will be given a paper to show you have been trained and what pesticides you have been trained on. Only sign this form after you have finished the training and you understand what you have learned.

If you are not sure of this location, ask your employer.

You can find the list of pesticides that are on the Proposition 65 list and that might be used in California at <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/deptfactsheets/pro65.htm>.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION YOUR EMPLOYER MUST KEEP

| Information | Location |
|---|--|
| Training records | Central workplace location |
| Written training program | Central workplace location |
| Completed Pesticide Safety Information Series (PSIS) A-8 | Display at central workplace location and post at decontamination facility serving 11 or more handlers |
| Respirator program and employee consultations | Employer's headquarters |
| Respirator medical evaluation result | Employer's headquarters |
| Respirator fit test records | Employer's headquarters |
| Respirator voluntary use display (if allowed by employer) | Display alongside completed PSIS A-8 |
| Accident response plan (fumigants) | Work site |
| Pesticide label | Work site |
| Applicable Pesticide Safety Information Series leaflets (A-1-A10) | Central workplace location |
| Emergency medical care posting | Work site or work vehicle |
| Application-specific information | Central workplace location |
| Safety Data Sheets | Central workplace location |
| Pesticide use records | Central workplace location |

PROPOSITION 65

In 1986, a law called the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65) was passed to require the state to make a list of chemicals that can cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm. The Proposition 65 list contains many different chemicals, including dyes, solvents, pesticides, drugs, and food additives. If you are exposed to any of these chemicals, your employer must tell you if you could be exposed to enough pesticides to cause a significant health risk. Your employer may also choose to tell you if a pesticide on the Proposition 65 list has been sprayed, even if health problems are not likely. As stated above, your employer must keep information about your training in a way that you understand.

For more space is needed, your employer may attach a list of medical facilities to this leaflet and write. See attached list in the above space. If this information changes, your employer must update it within 24 hours.

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CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Pesticide Safety Rules For Farmworkers

Your training and this leaflet tell you about pesticide dangers at work. Pesticides are chemicals that are used to control unwanted insects, weeds, and plant diseases. If you work on a farm, or in a forest, greenhouse, or nursery, your employer must know about the pesticides used.

EMPLOYERS: This is the hazard communication leaflet for your fieldworkers. Fill in the blank lines in this leaflet and display a copy of this handout at a central location in the workplace (such as an employee break room). This leaflet must also be posted or all permanent decontamination facilities and decontamination facilities serving 11 or more workers. If requested, you must read this leaflet to an employee in a language the employee understands.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE

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WHAT WILL I BE TOLD ABOUT NEARBY PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS?

Your employer must tell you about nearby applications on the property or the grower must post warning signs in fields that are being treated with pesticides. When there is no nearby application being made to the property you are on, your employer must tell you:

• How to report suspected pesticide violations
• Your rights as an employee

The information about your training must be written down. You will be given a paper to show you have been trained. Your employer will sign the paper and tell you the training and understand what you heard.

You cannot be told to mix, load, or apply pesticides unless you have been trained by your employer to do so safely. The A-8 safety leaflet has more information about safely handling pesticides.

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CAN I EVER GO INTO A FIELD WITH A REI IN EFFECT?

Usually, you must stay out of a field until the REI ends and your employer is told. If you go into a treated field during the REI, you might become sick. After a pesticide is used on a plant, it will begin to grow. But this takes time, so you must stay out of the treated field until the REI ends and your employer is told. The farmer or the person who made the REI will tell you when it is safe to go back into the field.

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW IF I HAVE TO GO INTO A FIELD DURING THE REI?

Your employer must tell you each time:

1. Where you will be working.

2. The name of the pesticide sprayed and when the REI began and when it will end.

3. If there are special restrictions on tasks, such as if you can touch treated areas.

4. What the label says are directions to you.

5. How you feel or look if you get pesticides in on you.

6. What emergency first aid steps to take if a pesticide makes you sick and how to get help right away.

7. Where to find this leaflet and the A-8 safety leaflet.

8. The protective clothes or equipment you must wear and when once worn you must change clothes.

9. How to wash your clothes before wearing them again.

10. What you can do if you are exposed to pesticides while you are working.

11. How to remove, store, and clean the protective clothes or equipment you used.

12. How to thoroughly wash away any soap or detergent you used.