

5 SAFETY TIPS FOR PESTICIDE HANDLERS

WHAT IS A PESTICIDE?

A pesticide is a chemical used to control or eliminate insects, rats, weeds or germs. Spray adjuvants are also pesticides in California. You must be at least 18 years old to handle pesticides in agriculture.

WHAT DOES A PESTICIDE HANDLER DO?

- Mixes, loads, or applies pesticides
- Repairs or cleans equipment used for pesticides
- Repairs or removes tarps on a field
- Handles unrinsed pesticide containers



Get trained before you handle pesticides: The law requires your employer to give you safety training every year in a way and a language that you understand. Training must happen before you begin working with pesticides, and anytime you work with new pesticides.



Tell your employer and get medical care if you think you are sick from pesticides: The law requires your employer to provide you with immediate transportation to the doctor if you think pesticides have made you sick at work. You will not have to pay for medical care if you get sick or hurt at work.



Use safety equipment to protect yourself at work: The pesticide label tells you what personal protective equipment (PPE) you need to wear to safely handle the pesticide. The law requires your employer to provide the label required PPE and show you how to use it correctly. Examples of PPE include gloves, goggles, respirators, or special clothing.



Protect yourself and your family from pesticides: After handling pesticides, always wash your hands before eating, drinking, smoking, chewing gum, using your phone, or going to the bathroom. Remove boots and clothing after work. Take a shower as soon as you get home and before you have any contact with family. Wash work clothes separate from your family's clothes. Never bring pesticides from work into your home and never put pesticides in food or drink containers.



Report pesticide incidents: Please report unsafe pesticide work conditions by calling 1-87PestLine (1-877-378-5463) or call your local County Agricultural Commissioner. County Agricultural Commissioners and the Department of Pesticide Regulation are required to ensure your safety when you are handling and working around pesticides and will investigate reported pesticide incidents.

If you are experiencing an emergency, such as difficulty breathing, immediately call 9-1-1. For first aid information in a non-emergency situation, call California Poison Control: (800) 222-1222.