

# PESTICIDE SAFETY



Information

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

N No. 8

## Safety Rules for Pesticide Handlers in Non-Agricultural Settings

The pesticide label, your training, and the Pesticide Safety Information Series (PSIS) leaflets tell you about pesticide dangers at work. You must be at least 18 years old to mix or load a pesticide that requires an air-supplied respirator, a closed system or full-body chemical-resistant clothing.



### 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 at work, 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 at:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

If more space is needed to list medical facilities, your employer may attach a list to this leaflet and write, "See attached list" in the above space.

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

**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). If requested, you must read this leaflet to an employee in a language the employee understands.

## 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 worker's rights organization, union, or the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR).

### 1. Right to Access and Review Records

You have the right to look at pesticide use records, applicable safety series leaflets, and Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) for all pesticides used in the last two years where you work. A SDS tells you about the pesticide and its dangers. You also have the right to review your training records and any other documents related to monitoring or potential exposure. You must be informed of this location before you handle pesticides and in your annual training. These records are kept at:

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

### 2. Right to Worker's Compensation

If you get sick or hurt BECAUSE OF YOUR JOB, you have the right to file for worker's compensation. Worker's compensation will pay for your medical bills, and sometimes, lost pay.

### 3. Right to Obtain Information

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

### 4. 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 use violations without being punished or fired. Your employer will not be told who made the complaint. Your statements about the safety problems must be checked out right away.

### 5. Right to Be Protected From Retaliation

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

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**SAFETY TIP**  
**8**  
**HOW CAN I TELL WHICH PESTICIDES ARE MORE DANGEROUS?**  
Most pesticide labels have a signal word ("Danger," "Warning," "Caution") on the front of the label. This word tells you about the acute health effect of the pesticide.

**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.**

## WHO DO I TELL ABOUT DANGERS AT WORK?

Pesticides are only one 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, 1-87PestLine (1-877-378-5463). If you have other health and safety complaints (unsafe equipment, heat stress, drinking water, etc.), file them with the California 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 anytime you work with new 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 N-1 safety leaflet to learn more about training).
- Tell you how to move pesticides from one place to another, or dispose of empty pesticide containers (there are special rules your employer must tell you about. Ask for the N-2 safety leaflet for more information).
- Give you extra training if you use engineering controls such as closed systems (ask your employer for the N-3 safety leaflet).
- Train you on first aid and emergency decontamination (ask your employer for the N-4 safety leaflet).
- Give you extra training if you have to use a respirator (ask your employer for the N-5 safety leaflet).
- Train you to wash your work clothes separately from other clothes before wearing them again (ask your employer for the N-7 safety leaflet)

**Other safety leaflets mentioned in this document should be part of your training. They are free and are available from your employer, your county agricultural commissioner, or DPR's website at <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/whs/psisenglish.htm>.**

All the information about your training must be written down. You will be given a paper to sign 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 heard.



<b>Pesticide Name</b> EPA Registration No.	
Active Ingredients	xx%
Inert Ingredients	x%
<b>DANGER</b>	
First Aid Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur.	
Precautionary Statements Hazards to Humans Personal Protective Equipment Environment Hazards	
Agricultural Use Requirements Em ipsum dolor sit amet, consecteturhendrerit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fu	
Directions for Use Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt incul pa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.	

## ARE THERE ANY EXTRA RULES FOR VERY DANGEROUS PESTICIDES?

Yes, there is a group of pesticides called minimal exposure pesticides that California has extra rules for because they could be especially dangerous for you.

These are the pesticides on this list:

- Bromoxynil (Buctril, Maestro)
- Oxydemeton-methyl (Metasystox-R (MSR), Inject-A-Cide)

See the N-6 safety leaflet for more information about safety rules if you have to work with these pesticides.

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) N-8	Display at central workplace location
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 N-8
Accident response plan (fumigants)	Work site
Pesticide label	Work site
Applicable Pesticide Safety Information Series leaflets (N1-N7)	Central workplace location
Emergency medical care posting	Work site or work vehicle
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. It requires California 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 a pesticide you use is on the Proposition 65 list, your employer must warn you if you could be exposed to enough pesticide 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 on each pesticide application at the address listed on page 2 and allow you to look at it. 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/dept/factshts/prop65.htm>.**



*If you don't get all the information you need in your training or want to make a pesticide use complaint, you should call your County Agricultural Commissioner, or the DPR for more information. You can find the Commissioner's number in your local white pages phone directory, by calling 1-87PestLine, or at: [www.cdpr.ca.gov/exec/county/countymap/](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/exec/county/countymap/)*

**DPR's Regional Offices are:**

- Northern (West Sacramento) 916/376-8960
- Central (Clovis) 559/297-3511
- Southern (Anaheim) 714/279-7690



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*All safety leaflets are available at:*  
[www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/whs/psisenglish.htm](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/whs/psisenglish.htm)

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