

# PESTICIDE SAFETY

Information

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY



A No. 8 poster

## 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 at 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 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, 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 worker's rights organization, union, 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 crop or site treated 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 ingredient(s)
- 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 at:

(Employers: This is the application-specific information)

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

#### 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 Access and Review Records

You have the right to look at pesticide use records, applicable pesticide safety series leaflets, and SDSs for all pesticides used in the last two years where you work. You also have the right to review your training records, medical supervision records, and any other documents related to monitoring or potential exposure. You must be informed of the location of the records 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.

#### 4. 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.

#### 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 without being punished or fired. Neither the grower nor your employer will be told who made the 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, from discrimination, and from any retaliatory action due to the exercise of any of your rights.

### 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 (bathrooms, 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 A-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 A-2 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 work clothes separately from other clothes before wearing them again (ask your employer for the A-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.

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 (A1-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

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

Yes, there are two groups of pesticides that California has extra rules for because they could be especially dangerous to you: organophosphate and carbamate pesticides and minimal exposure pesticides.

#### 1. Organophosphate and Carbamate Pesticides

Cholinesterase is a chemical in your body that helps your nerves work properly. Exposure to organophosphates and carbamates can keep cholinesterase from working and make you sick. If you mix, load, or apply organophosphates or carbamates with the signal word "Danger" or "Warning," your employer must record how often you are exposed to these pesticides. If you handle these pesticides more than six days in any 30 day period, California's rules say you must get extra medical care. Ask your employer for the A-10 safety leaflet for more information on these pesticides.

If you need extra medical care, your employer maintains test results and recommendations of the medical supervisor. The doctor providing extra medical care for organophosphates and carbamates is:

DOCTOR'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. Minimal Exposure Pesticides

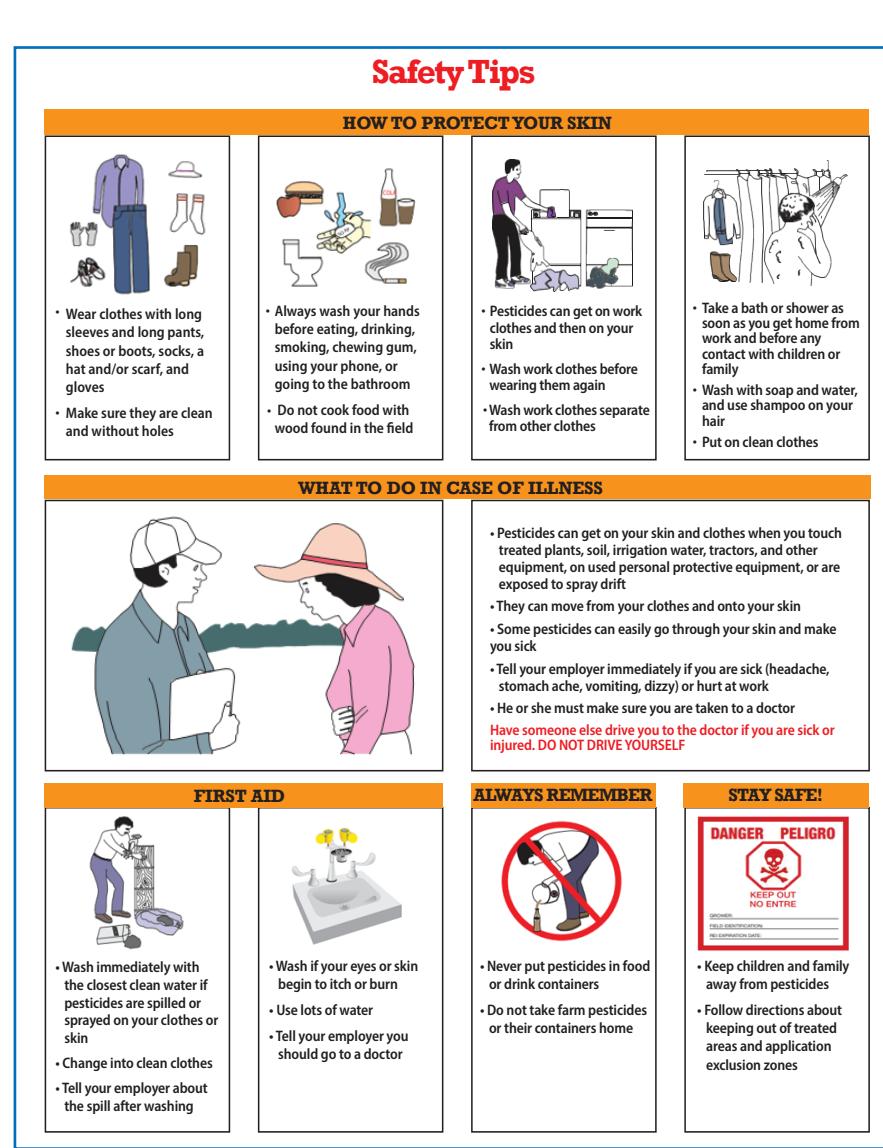
These are the agricultural minimal exposure pesticides:

- Bromoxynil (Butril, Maestro)
- Oxydemeton-methyl (Metasystox-R (MSR), Inject-A-Cide)
- Propargite (Omite, Comite)

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

### 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/factsheets/prop65.htm>.

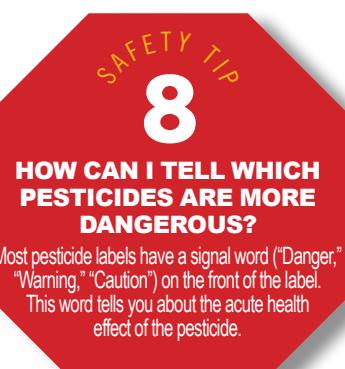


If you don't get all the information you need in your training or want to make a pesticide use complaint, you should call your County Agricultural Commissioner, or the DPR for more information. You can find the Commissioner's number in your local white pages phone directory, by calling 1-87PestLine,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

DPR's Regional Offices are:

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

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



fast, free, expert help  
CALIFORNIA POISON CONTROL  
1-800-222-1222

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.

# Información de SEGURIDAD CON PESTICIDAS



AGENCIA DE PROTECCIÓN DEL MEDIO AMBIENTE DE CALIFORNIA

A N.º 8  
Cartel

## Reglas de seguridad para manipuladores de pesticidas en entornos agrícolas

La etiqueta del pesticida, su capacitación y los folletos de la Serie Información de Seguridad con Pesticida (PSIS, siglas en inglés) le informan sobre los peligros de los pesticidas en el trabajo. Para manejar pesticidas en la agricultura (en propiedades agrícolas, bosques, viviendas o invernaderos) debe tener al menos 18 años de edad. Su empleador debe enseñarle cómo usar los pesticidas de manera segura y cómo protegerse cuando los use. Los pesticidas son productos químicos que se usan para controlar plagas: insectos no deseados, animales depredadores, roedores, maleza y enfermedades de las plantas. Los adyuvantes agregados a la pulverización también son pesticidas de acuerdo con la ley de California.

**EMPLEADORES:** Este es el folleto de comunicación de riesgo para los manipuladores de pesticidas. Llene los espacios en blanco de este folleto y exhiba una copia en una ubicación central en el lugar de trabajo (como en una sala de descanso para empleados). Este folleto también debe ponerse en todas las instalaciones para la descontaminación permanentes y en las instalaciones para la descontaminación que están al servicio de más de 11 empleados que manipulan pesticidas. Si le lo solicita, debe leer este folleto a un empleado en un idioma que el empleado entienda.

### ATENCIÓN MÉDICA DE EMERGENCIA

Si su empleador debe diseñar planes de atención médica de emergencia antes de que usted empiece a trabajar con pesticidas. Si cree que los pesticidas hicieron que se enfermara o lastimara en el trabajo, avise a su empleador de inmediato. El debe de encargarse de que lo lleven con el doctor inmediatamente. NO VAYA POR SU CUENTA.

Puede obtener atención médica de emergencia en:

NOMBRE: \_\_\_\_\_  
DIRECCIÓN: \_\_\_\_\_  
TELÉFONO: \_\_\_\_\_

Si se necesita más espacio, su empleador puede adjuntar una lista de instalaciones médicas a este folleto y escribir "Consultar la lista adjunta" en el espacio anterior. Si esta información cambia, su empleador debe actualizarla durante las siguientes 24 horas.

**RECUPERDE:** Usted NO tiene que pagar por su atención médica si se enferma o lastima a causa de los pesticidas de su trabajo.

### SI USTED SOSPECHA

que los pesticidas hicieron que se enfermara en el trabajo, avise a su empleador de inmediato. Su empleador debe asegurarse de que lo lleven al doctor INMEDIATAMENTE.

### ¿QUÁLES SON MIS DERECHOS?

Su empleador debe explicarle sus derechos. Si necesita ayuda para comprender sus derechos, llame o vaya a la oficina del Comisionado de Agricultura de su condado, a la organización local de ayuda legal y de derechos de los trabajadores, al sindicato o al Departamento de Reglamentación de Pesticidas.

#### 1. Derecho a saber

Usted tiene derecho a saber lo siguiente acerca de los pesticidas usados recientemente en su trabajo:

- El cultivo o sitio tratado y donde se encuentra el área tratada.
- Cuando comenzó y terminó la aplicación.
- El intervalo de entrada restringida (REI, siglas en inglés).
- El nombre del pesticida, el número de Registro de la Agencia de Protección Ambiental (EPA, siglas en inglés) Federal y los ingredientes activos.
- La hoja de seguridad (SDS, siglas en inglés) del pesticida aplicado. Las SDS tienen la información sobre el pesticida y sus peligros.

Como parte de su capacitación, su empleador debe decirle en dónde se mantiene esta información. Su empleador también debe permitirle ver los registros siempre que lo desee sin tener que pedirlos.

Puede encontrar información sobre el uso reciente de pesticidas en:

(Empleadores: esta es la información específica de la aplicación)

DIRECCIÓN: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. Derecho a la indemnización laboral

Si se enferma o lastima A CAUSA DE SU TRABAJO, tiene derecho a solicitar una indemnización laboral. La indemnización servirá para pagar facturas por servicios médicos, y a veces, salarios caídos.

#### 3. Derecho de acceso y revisión de registros

Tiene derecho a consultar los registros de uso de pesticidas, los folletos de la serie de seguridad con pesticidas aplicables y las SDS de todos los pesticidas utilizados en los últimos dos años en su trabajo. También tiene derecho a revisar sus registros de capacitación, los registros de supervisión médica y cualquier otro documento relacionado con el monitoreo o la posible exposición. Se le debe informar la ubicación de los registros antes de manejar pesticidas y en su capacitación anual. Estos registros se guardan en:

DIRECCIÓN: \_\_\_\_\_

Si esta ubicación cambia, su empleador debe informarle de inmediato la nueva ubicación.

#### 4. Derecho a obtener información

Usted, su doctor o su representante designado por escrito pueden recibir información sobre su exposición a pesticidas o cualquier otro registro de pesticidas que su empleador esté obligado a mantener.

#### 5. Derecho a reportar condiciones inseguras

La seguridad de los pesticidas para los trabajadores es la principal prioridad del comisionado de agricultura del condado y del DPR. Tiene derecho a reportar las condiciones de trabajo con pesticidas inseguras y las sospechas de violaciones al uso de pesticidas sin que lo castiguen o despidan. Ni el agricultor ni su empleador se enterarán de quién se quejó. Sus declaraciones sobre los problemas de seguridad deben revisarse de inmediato.

#### 6. Derecho a estar protegido contra