

What to say before you spray

You must inform your employees so they don't enter sprayed fields and be exposed to pesticides. HERE'S HOW.

NOTIFY > POST > DISPLAY

Pesticides on crops present a hazard to workers until they break down to safe levels. There are restricted entry intervals (REI) for every pesticide/crop combination. REIs are listed on pesticide labels and in California regulations. It is your responsibility as an employer to provide workers and contractors with the information they need to be safe when working in or near treated fields.

For more specific information regarding employers responsibilities and workers rights regarding work in and near treated fields contact your County Agricultural Commissioner or consult the following DPR publications:

Pesticide Safety Series A-8

Hazard Communication Information for Employees Handling Pesticides in Agricultural Settings

Pesticide Safety Series A-9

Hazard Communication Information for Employers with Employees Working in Agricultural Fields

Pesticide Safety Series A-6

Summary of Worker Safety Regulations for the Agricultural Setting

1 NOTICE: Each morning make sure all your workers and contractors know where pesticides will be applied and how long they need to stay out of treated areas. You must inform employees likely to enter or come within one-quarter mile of restricted-entry fields.

2 POST: Warning signs must be posted before an application when required by the pesticide label, regulations, or restricted material permit. All greenhouse applications require warning signs. Signs must be properly placed and removed within three days after the restricted entry interval (REI) is over. There are four different kinds of warning signs required in California.

- 1) REI is 7 days or less
- 2) REI is more than 7 days
- 3) Fumigations
- 4) Chemigation

Each sign has specific requirements. All signs must be readable at 25 feet and be written in English and Spanish. Signs can often be used instead of oral notification.

3 DISPLAY: You must make application information freely available to your employees. They should not have to ask to see it. Keep application information at a central location like the shop or the break room. Tell your employees where it is kept. For field workers, the Pesticide Safety Information Series A-9 must be available to workers on site. You must write the location where your application information is displayed in the space provided on the first page of the A-9 document.

Remember pesticide safety is the law. Failure to assure that your employees are properly protected can result in fines up to \$5,000 per violation.