

# It's as simple as PPE (Please Protect Employees)

Contact your County Agricultural Commissioner for more information.

Employees, growers and the public are protected under federal and California pesticide law. Employers must provide their employees protection from exposure to pesticides. Wearing required personal protective equipment (PPE) protects handlers from pesticides hazards. Handling activities include applying or mixing pesticides and cleaning contaminated equipment.

DPR surveyed pesticide operations in California and determined the most common violations of pesticide safety laws. They are listed below to help growers evaluate their performance and determine where improvement is needed. Employers of pesticide handlers are required to provide and assure the use of all necessary protection.



1

**Protective Eyewear:** One of the most common injuries due to pesticide exposure is to the eye. Eye protection must be provided by the employer and worn by the employee whenever pesticides are handled.

2

**Gloves:** Studies show that the most common route for pesticide exposure is through the skin, especially the hands. Chemical resistant or waterproof gloves must be provided and worn when handling pesticides.



3

**Protective Clothing:** When required by the label or regulation, clean coveralls and/or chemical resistant clothing, including boots, must be provided by employers and worn by employees handling pesticides.

4

**Decontamination site and supplies:** A complete decontamination site with coveralls, soap, water and single-use towels must be available at the worksite. When the label requires eye protection, eyewash must be immediately available.



5

**Medical Care Posting:** Employers must post at the work site the name, address and phone number of an emergency medical care facility. Employers must take injured employees to a doctor.

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.