

How to report pesticide incidents, illnesses, or concerns

Pesticide Incidents or Concerns



Are you experiencing a pesticide-related emergency?

For example, if you are currently being exposed to pesticide spray or drift, especially if you are having serious health problems like difficulty breathing.

Please **dial 9-1-1** for help.

Do you want to report a **non-emergency** pesticide incident or concern?



Call your County Agricultural Commissioner (CAC) office to report the incident. If calling outside of business hours, please leave a message.

You can find their number [online](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/exec/county/county_contacts.html) (www.cdpr.ca.gov/exec/county/county_contacts.html) or by calling 1-87PestLine (1-877-378-5463).

You can submit a report without giving your name (anonymously), but if you do not leave any contact information, CAC staff cannot follow up with a call.

What information will help CAC staff investigate your report?



- The address or location where the incident occurred or is occurring
- The date and time of the incident
- If you or anyone else experienced or is experiencing any physical or other symptoms
- A brief description of the incident, including what you saw, smelled, or felt.

In addition, providing your name, phone number or email will help the investigation, but **you do not have to provide that information** for CAC staff to conduct the investigation. If you provide your name, CAC staff will not share it with anyone unless you ask to be named in official reports. If you provide your contact information, CAC staff will get back to you within the next business day.

Based on the information provided, CAC staff will work to identify the individual(s) or business involved in the incident and conduct their investigation. The time to complete an investigation varies. You can call to request the name of the pesticide(s) involved in the incident—which can be shared once identified—and **check on the progress of the investigation at any point** in the process. You also have a right to a copy of the final investigation report, once it is completed.

For more information about reporting pesticide problems, please visit:
www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/dept/quicklinks/report.htm.



Are you at risk of being exposed to pesticides **while at work**?

You have the right to report unsafe pesticide work conditions and potential pesticide use violations to your **County Agricultural Commissioner (CAC) office** without being punished or fired.

Employers are required by law to assure safe pesticide work conditions, including:

- Providing training before workers handle pesticides and before they work in treated fields
- Providing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and decontamination (washing) supplies.

For more information about employer responsibilities for pesticide worker safety, please visit:
www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/enforce/cmpliaist/worker_safety_regs.pdf.

Common Symptoms of Pesticide Exposure May Include



- Flu-like symptoms (like tiredness, headache, or dizziness)
- Blurred vision
- Stuffy nose, sore throat, or coughing
- Eye, nose, or skin irritation
- Excessive sweating
- Vomiting, diarrhea, or stomach cramps
- Nervousness, confusion, loss of coordination
- Difficulty breathing



Call 9-1-1 immediately if you or someone else:

- Feels weak or unable to walk
- Feels discomfort in your chest
- Has tiny (pinpoint) pupils of the eyes
- Foams at the mouth and nose
- Has problems breathing
- Loses consciousness

Pesticide Illnesses

Are you experiencing symptoms from possible pesticide exposure?



- Call 9-1-1 for help if you or anyone else is seriously ill.
- Get help from a local hospital or healthcare provider as soon as possible.
- For less serious cases, you can also call the Poison Control Center, 1-800-222-1222, for free, immediate first aid-information and advice on what to do next. They are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Be sure to include that you may have been exposed to a pesticide. If the suspected pesticide exposure occurred at home or at work, take a picture of the pesticide container or label, if possible, and bring it with you when you call or seek care.

Were you exposed to pesticides **while at work**?



Ask your employer to take you to the doctor. Your employer is required by law to make sure you are taken to the doctor for a pesticide illness acquired on the job. Medical costs are covered by the workers' compensation system (visit www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/ianda.html for contact information).

For more information about what to do if you think pesticide exposure made you ill, please visit:
www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/dept/quicklinks/whattodo.htm.

About this Resource

This document is intended to be a resource for California communities and County Agricultural Commissioner (CAC) staff as one of a variety of tools (see the Department of Pesticide Regulation's [Resource Hub for Local Engagement](#)) produced by a collaborative, diverse group of both community and CAC partners to improve and enhance communication and engagement across the state.

There are multiple ways for community members to report a non-emergency pesticide use concern or incident. This resource was developed to provide community members with information on how to report these concerns to the CAC office for investigation. This resource includes information on how to report pesticide concerns anonymously and a preview of what information should be provided to CACs for investigation and enforcement. This resource can be distributed to community members, leveraged by CAC staff, or posted in CAC offices and webpages. Counties can adapt any information from this document or the [County Agricultural Commissioner Office voicemail message template for pesticide incident reports](#) for their own voicemail message.