

PESTICIDE SAFETY



Information

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

A No. 8

Safety Rules for Employees Handling Pesticides 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.

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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.

SAFETY TIP

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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.

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).
- Give you extra training if you use a restricted pesticide (see next section).
- 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).



Pesticide Name	
EPA Registration No.	
Active Ingredients	xx%
Inert Ingredients	x%
DANGER	
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	
Er ipsam dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.	
Directions for Use	
Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.	

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 <https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/worker-health-and-safety/education-series/>.

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.

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ARE THERE ANY EXTRA RULES FOR VERY DANGEROUS PESTICIDES?

Yes, California has extra rules for three groups of pesticides that are more hazardous. These groups and their rules are:

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 and some examples of product names.

- Bromoxynil (Moxy, Maestro, Cleansweep)
- Oxydemeton-methyl (No registered products)
- Propargite (Omite, Decimite, Comite)

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

3. Restricted Pesticides

Pesticides are restricted if they are more likely than other pesticides to make you sick or cause harm to others or the environment. If you handle restricted pesticides, your employer must give you additional training on:

- how to identify these pesticides,
- that you must be supervised by a certified applicator,
- the certified applicator's responsibility to give you specific information about the pesticide and the site, and
- how to contact the certified applicator.

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

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 https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/prop_65_list.pdf

For more information on Prop 65, see https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/pesticides_and_proposition_65.pdf



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

DPR's Regional Offices are:

- Northern (Sacramento) (916) 603-7700
- Central (Clovis) (559) 297-3511
- Southern (Anaheim) (714) 279-7690



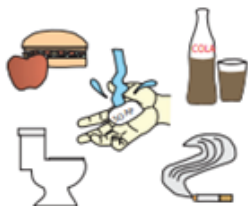
All safety leaflets are available at:
www.cdpr.ca.gov/worker-health-and-safety/education-series

Safety Tips

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR SKIN



- Wear clothes with long sleeves and long pants, shoes or boots, socks, a hat and/or bandana, and gloves
- Make sure they are clean and without holes



- Always wash your hands before eating, drinking, smoking, chewing gum, using your phone, or going to the bathroom
- Do not cook food with wood found in the field



- Pesticides can get on work clothes and then on your skin
- Wash work clothes before wearing them again
- Wash work clothes separate from other clothes



- Wash or shower as soon as you get home from work and before any contact with children or family
- Wash with soap and water, and use shampoo on your hair
- Put on clean clothes

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF ILLNESS



- Pesticides can get on your skin and clothes when you touch treated plants, soil, irrigation water, tractors, and other equipment, on used personal protective equipment, or are exposed to spray drift
- They can move from your clothes and onto your skin
- Some pesticides can easily go through your skin and make you sick
- Tell your employer immediately if you are sick (headache, stomach ache, vomiting, dizzy) or hurt at work
- He or she must make sure you are taken to a doctor

Have someone else drive you to the doctor if you are sick or injured. DO NOT DRIVE YOURSELF

FIRST AID



- Wash immediately with the closest clean water if pesticides are spilled or sprayed on your clothes or skin
- Change into clean clothes
- Tell your employer about the spill after washing



- Wash if your eyes or skin begin to itch or burn
- Use lots of water
- Tell your employer you should go to a doctor

ALWAYS REMEMBER



- Never put pesticides in food or drink containers
- Do not take farm pesticides or their containers home

STAY SAFE!



- Keep children and family away from pesticides
- Follow directions about keeping out of treated areas and application exclusion zones