

# Pesticide Safety Information

CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
PESTICIDE REGULATION  
1001 I Street,  
Sacramento,  
California 95814

## Safety Rules for Pesticide Handlers in Non-Agricultural Settings

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

**N**  
No. 8

This leaflet, the pesticide label, and your training, tell you about pesticide dangers at work. Your supervisor must know and help you learn about the pesticides you will use, how to safely use them, and how to protect yourself. Pesticides are chemicals that are used to kill insects, weeds, germs and plant diseases. **Fertilizers are not pesticides.**

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, he must make sure that you are taken to the doctor right away. You do not have to pay for medical care if you get sick or hurt from pesticides at work.

### Emergency medical care is available at

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### WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS?

#### You have the right to know the following about pesticides that have been used where you work

- when and where the pesticide was applied
- name of the pesticide
- the EPA registration number

When you are trained your supervisor must tell you where all this information is kept. You have the right to look at Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) and records for all pesticides used where you work. The MSDS tells you about the pesticide and its dangers.



If you think that pesticides have made you sick at work, your supervisor must make sure that you are taken to the doctor immediately.

EMPLOYERS: This is the hazard communication leaflet. Fill in the blank lines in this leaflet and display this handout at the employees' work site.

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## These records are kept at:

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If you get sick or hurt **BECAUSE OF YOUR JOB**, you have the right to file for worker's compensation. Workers' compensation will pay for your medical bills, and sometimes, lost pay.

Your supervisor must explain your rights to you. If you need more help in understanding your rights, call or go to your local county agricultural commissioner's office, local legal aid, and worker's rights office, union or the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR).

### The DPR offices are:

- Anaheim (714) 279-7690
- Fresno (559) 243-8111
- Sacramento (916) 324-4100

### 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, you should call the county agricultural commissioner.



Other health and safety complaints (bathrooms, drinking water, etc.) should be filed with the California Department of Industrial Relations-Cal/OSHA office. You can find the telephone numbers in the government pages of the telephone book.

### What training should I get?

- You must be trained in a way that you understand **before** you begin working with pesticides, and anytime you work with new pesticides.

- You must also be given training each year to remind you how to work with pesticides safely.
- You must be told the ways a pesticide can hurt you and how to safely use each pesticide you work with. (Ask your supervisor for the N-1 safety leaflet to learn more about training.)
- You must get extra training if you have to use a respirator (ask your supervisor for the N-5 safety leaflet).



All the information in your training must also be written down. You will be given a paper to sign to show you have been trained. But only do that when you have finished the training and you understand what you heard.

### WHAT CAN A PESTICIDE LABEL TELL ME?

#### Some of the most important things listed on the label are

- what chemicals are in the pesticide,
- first aid and health warnings,
- protective equipment you need,
- and directions for applying the pesticide.

All pesticides are poisonous. If a pesticide gets in or on you, it can hurt you or make you sick.

The pesticide label tells you how to safely mix and apply the pesticide. **The label must be at the place where you mix or apply the pesticide.** You must read and follow **ALL** directions on the label. There may also be product bulletins or other extra label information that you must read and follow.

If you have to move pesticides from one place to another, or dispose of empty pesticide containers, there are special rules your supervisor must tell you about. Ask for the N-2 safety leaflet for more information.

<b>Pesticide Name</b> EPA Registration No.	
Active Ingredients	xx%
Inert Ingredients	x%
<b>DANGER</b>	
<b>Statement of Practical Treatment</b> <small>Do not give fluids to an unconscious person If in eyes rinse eyes with a gentle stream of water for 15 minutes</small>	
<b>Precautionary Statements</b> <b>Hazards to Humans</b> <b>Personal Protective Equipment</b> <b>Environmental Hazards</b>	
<b>Directions for Use</b> <small>Do not apply in irrigation system Do not apply when people are present Do not allow spray to drift off-site Apply only according to the directions on the label</small>	

## How can I tell which pesticides are more dangerous?

Most pesticide labels have a signal word in large print on the front of the label. This word tells you about the acute health effect of the pesticide. If a pesticide can hurt you or make you sick right away, that's called an acute effect. If it takes months or years of exposure to a pesticide before you get sick, that's called a chronic effect.

### These are the words that tell about acute effects

- **DANGER** means the pesticide is extremely harmful
- **WARNING** means less harmful, but still dangerous
- **CAUTION** means much slightly harmful, but still can make you sick

If the label does not have one of these words, it means that the pesticide is unlikely to harm you. However, **always** handle pesticides carefully.

### WHAT ELSE DOES THE LABEL TELL ME?

- If the pesticide can severely hurt your eyes or skin, the label will say something like "Corrosive, causes eye and skin damage."

- If the pesticide can make you very sick, the label will have a skull-and-crossbones symbol and the word "**POISON.**"
- Words like "**FATAL**" or "may be fatal if swallowed, inhaled, or absorbed through the skin," mean the pesticide can make you very sick or even kill you.
- Some pesticide labels tell you about other health problems that might not show up until long after use, such as cancer (may take years) or dangers to unborn babies.



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

Yes, there is a group of pesticides, called Minimal Exposure Pesticides (MEPs) that California has extra rules for because they could be especially dangerous to you.

### These are the pesticides on this list

- Buctril
- Metasystox-R

See the N-10 safety leaflet or more information about these pesticides.

**Other handouts mentioned in this document should be part of your training. They are free and are available from your supervisor and your local agricultural commissioner's office.**

## SUMMARY OF RECORDS YOUR EMPLOYER MUST KEEP

Information	Location
Training papers	Employer's office site
Written training program	Employer's office site
Respirator program procedures	Employer's office site
Accident response plan (fumigants)	Work site
Pesticide label	Work site
Pesticide Safety Information Series	Employer's office site
Material Safety Data Sheet	Employer's office site
Storage area posting <sup>1</sup>	Storage area
Emergency medical care notice	Work site
Doctor's report for respirator use	Employer's office site
Pesticide use records	Employer's office site

<sup>1</sup> Required only for pesticides with the Signal word "DANGER" or "WARNING"

## SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT

In 1986, a law called the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65) was passed. Proposition 65 requires California to make a list of chemicals that 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 is on the Proposition 65 list, your supervisor must warn you if you could be exposed to enough pesticide to result in a significant health risk. Your supervisor may also choose to warn you if a pesticide on the Proposition 65 list has been sprayed, even if health problems are not likely. Your employer is required to keep information on each pesticide application and allow you to look at it. If you are not sure of the record location, ask your supervisor. *The following table lists pesticides that are on the Proposition 65 list and that might be used in California.*

### CURRENTLY REGISTERED PESTICIDES ON THE PROPOSITION 65 LIST

#### PESTICIDES KNOWN TO THE STATE TO CAUSE CANCER

Arsenic acid	Folpet
Arsenic pentoxide	Formaldehyde (gas)
Arsenic trioxide	Iprodione
Cacodylic acid	Lindane
Captan	Mancozeb
Chlorothalonil	Maneb
Chromic acid	Metam Sodium
Creosote	Metiram
Daminozide	Oxadiazon
DDVP (dichlorvos)	Pentachlorophenol
Diuron	Propargite
p-Dichlorobenzene	Pronamide (propyzamide)
1,3-Dichloropropene	Propylene oxide
Diethyl phthalate	Sodium dichromate
Ethylene oxide	Terrazole
Ethylene glycol monomethyl ether	Thiodicarb
Fenoxycarb	Vinclozolin

#### PESTICIDES KNOWN TO THE STATE TO CAUSE BIRTH DEFECTS OR REPRODUCTIVE HARM

Amitraz	Methyl bromide (as a structural fumigant)
Arsenic pentoxide	Myclobutanil
Arsenic trioxide	Nitrapyrin
Bromoxynil octanoate	Oxadiazon
Chlorsulfuron	Oxydemeton-methyl
Diclofop methyl	Potassium dimethyldithiocarbamate
Disodium cyano-dithioimidocarbonate	Propargite
EPTC (ethyl dipropyl-thiocarbamate)	Resmethrin
Ethylene oxide	Sodium dimethyldithiocarbamate
Ethylene glycol monomethyl ether	Streptomycin sulfate
Fenoxaprop ethyl	Thiophanate methyl
Fluazifop butyl	Triadimefon
Fluvalinate	Tributyltin methacrylate
Hydramethylnon	Triforine
Linuron	Vinclozolin
Metam sodium	Warfarin
Metiram	



If you don't get all the information you need in your training, or from your supervisor, you should call your County Agricultural Commissioner, or the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) for more information. You can find the Commissioner's number in your local white pages phone directory. DPR numbers are:

- Anaheim (714) 279-7690
- Fresno (559) 243-8111
- Sacramento (916) 324-4100