

The Supervisor's Guide To

OSHA
REGULATIONStoday's
topic:**PESTICIDES****SAFETY MEETING SCRIPT****Pesticide Safety:
A Quick Review**

“Chemicals and pesticides can be very hazardous. Pesticides are dangerous if you are working in areas that have been treated or sprayed with them, or when you are handling or applying them. Simple contact through your skin and clothes is one of the primary ways chemicals enter your body. Another way is through inhaling mist, dust, fumes or smoke containing pesticides and other chemicals. You can even poison yourself if you use chemicals and don't wash your hands before eating.

You are responsible for following safe work practices. Let's talk about some of them:

- ✓ Be aware that chemicals may be on or in plants, soil, irrigation water or air drifting from nearby applications.
- ✓ Be sure you are properly trained before you begin any work in areas where a chemical application is taking place.
- ✓ Make sure you are aware of any areas where chemicals are being applied so you can avoid exposure.
- ✓ You can prevent pesticides from entering your body by:
 - Following directions and signs about keeping out of restricted areas
 - Washing before eating, drinking, using gum or tobacco and using the toilet
 - Wearing proper work clothes that protect your body from chemical residues
 - Showering after work and putting on clean clothes
 - Washing work clothes separately from other clothing
 - Washing immediately in clean water if pesticides are sprayed or spilled on you
 - Not touching your eyes, nose or mouth with your hands if they might be contaminated with chemicals.
- ✓ Make sure you know where to wash off and be decontaminated if you are exposed.
- ✓ Pesticides are classified for either general or restricted use. Anyone is permitted to use a

pesticide labeled “general,” but those that are labeled “restricted” may be handled only by those who are properly certified.

✓ Never use products for pests that are not indicated on the label.

✓ Do not use more pesticide than directed by the label. Twice the amount will not do twice the job.

✓ Do not spray outdoors on windy days.

Even if we are all very careful, there is always a possibility that someone may be overexposed to a pesticide. Let's talk about some general first-aid points.

Taking the right action is just as important as taking immediate action. First, try to determine what the person was exposed to and what part of the body was affected. If the victim is unconscious, having trouble breathing or having convulsions, provide necessary first aid immediately. Call 9-1-1. If the victim does not have these symptoms, call the Poison Control Center at (800) 222-1222.

If someone swallows a poisonous pesticide, induce vomiting **ONLY** if the emergency personnel on the phone tell you to do so. Some petroleum products or caustic poisons will cause more damage if the victim vomits.

If a pesticide gets in the eye, serious eye damage can occur, sometimes within minutes, depending on the pesticide. If a pesticide splashes into the eye, hold the eyelid open and wash quickly and gently with clean, running water from the tap or a gentle stream from a hose for at least 15 minutes. Do not use eye drops.

If a pesticide splashes on the skin, drench the area with water and remove any contaminated clothing. Wash the skin and hair thoroughly with soap and water. Later, discard contaminated clothing or thoroughly wash it separately from other laundry.

If a pesticide is inhaled, carry or drag the victim to fresh air. If you are unable to get to the victim, immediately contact the local fire department. If you have access to the victim, loosen his or her clothing. If the victim is blue or has stopped breathing, give artificial respiration and call 9-1-1.

Thanks for your attention.

Have a safe day.”