



Checklist for: Worker Protection Standard Training



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Complete Training:

According to the Federal Regulation for the Worker Protection Standard (WPS CFR 40 Part 170), Agricultural workers must receive complete training before 5 days of field work has been completed (does not need to be 5 consecutive days). Worker training can be conducted by anyone who is currently licensed as a Colorado Pesticide Applicator, *OR* has been trained as a handler, *OR* anyone who has completed a Pesticide Safety Train-the-Trainer Program, approved by the Colorado Department of Agriculture. The following checklist can be used to meet all the training required for workers.

Where/what form pesticides may be encountered at work

Pesticides and pesticide residues can often be found:

- on treated plants
- in the soil around application
- in irrigation water and on irrigation equipment
- in the air in the form of drift

- on application equipment
- in or on empty pesticide containers
- on work clothes
- in areas used for storing, mixing and handling pesticides

Hazards from toxicity & exposure in the form of:

1) **Acute** health effects, which occur shortly after exposure.

2) **Chronic** health effects, which may appear shortly after a pesticide exposure or may not show up until long after exposure has occurred. Long-term illnesses may result from repeated exposures at a level that is too low to produce noticeable immediate illness or injury.

3) **Sensitization** or, a gradual development of an allergic reaction to pesticides. Certain pesticides affect some people only after *several exposures*. Once these people become sensitized, their bodies will react every time they are exposed to the material.

***Some people never develop sensitivities or allergies to these pesticides, no matter how many times they are exposed.*



Long-term health effects associated with exposure to certain pesticides may include:

- cancer
- inability to become pregnant
- miscarriage
- birth defects
- nervous system disorders
- damage to organs, such as the lungs or liver
- damage to the immune system

Hazards from chemigation and drift:

Chemigation ➡ The application of pesticides or fertilizers to crops through the irrigation water.

...Therefore, **NEVER** use irrigation water for drinking or washing.

Drift ➡ The movement of pesticide dust, spray, or vapor away from the application site.

...Therefore, workers should leave an area **IMMEDIATELY** if they are working in a field where someone is applying a pesticide, or if a pesticide from a nearby application is drifting into their work area.





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Hazards from pesticide residues on clothes:

- Avoid wearing the same work clothes more than once before washing them.
- Have at least two sets of work clothes to avoid wearing potentially contaminated clothes before they are washed.
- Put work clothes that may contain residues into a plastic bag to prevent others from coming in contact with them.
- Inform whoever washes agricultural work clothing that the clothes may have pesticide residues on them, and that these residues can be hazardous.
- Wash work clothes separately from other clothing.



Warnings about taking pesticides or pesticide containers home:

- Agricultural workers should NEVER take any pesticides or pesticide containers home, even if empty and rinsed.

Routine & emergency decontamination procedures (including eye wash):

- Washing hands *before* touching eyes or mouth when working.
- Washing hands *before* eating, drinking, smoking, chewing gum or tobacco, or using the toilet while at work.
- Showering or bathing immediately after work and changing into *clean* clothes.

***A pesticide container is never completely free of pesticide residues and can never be safely used for any other purpose*



Signs/symptoms of common pesticide poisoning:

Exposures to some pesticides can result in:

- skin and eye irritation, nose and throat pain, and skin rashes.

Common poisoning symptoms include:

- dizziness, headache, muscle aches, tiredness, nausea, and diarrhea.



More serious poisoning can also result in:

- chest pain, breathing difficulties, excessive salivation or drooling, very small pupils, lack of muscle control, convulsions, unconsciousness, death.

**Not all pesticides cause the same symptoms.*

***Some common pesticide poisoning symptoms may be similar to symptoms of a cold, the flu, heat stress, morning sickness, food poisoning, or a hangover.*





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Routes through which pesticides can enter the body:

Skin Exposure:

Symptoms include:

- redness
- rash
- blisters
- other skin irritations
- **Minimize skin exposure by wearing clothing that covers skin and bandaging cuts or broken skin.

Eye Exposure:

Resulting from drift from a pesticide

**You can also transfer residue to your eye from contact with your hands .

Respiratory Exposure:

Resulting from drift from a pesticide

**Might also breathe in pesticide vapor or dust.

Oral Exposure:

Resulting from eating, drinking, smoking or chewing gum without washing hands
OR, from eating produce taken from fields
OR, when someone accidentally eats or drinks a pesticide that has been placed into a food/beverage container that has been used to mix pesticides.

| KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN CAUTION | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Si usted no entiende la etiqueta, busque a alguien para que se la explique a usted en detalle. (If you do not understand the label, find someone to explain it to you in detail). | |
| FIRST AID | |
| IF SWALLOWED: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediately call a poison control center or doctor. • Do not induce vomiting unless told to do so by a poison control center or doctor. • Do not give any liquid to the person. • Do not give anything by mouth to an unconscious person. |
| IF ON SKIN OR CLOTHING: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take off contaminated clothing. • Rinse skin immediately with plenty of water for 15-20 minutes. • Call a poison control center or doctor for treatment advice. |
| IF IN EYES: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold eye open and rinse slowly and gently with water for 15-20 minutes. • Remove contact lenses, if present, after the first 5 minutes, then continue rinsing eye. • Call a poison control center or doctor for treatment advice. |

Emergency First Aid for pesticide injuries or poisonings:

Skin Exposure:

The pesticide-contaminated clothing should be removed right away and the skin washed with lots of clean water and soap.



Eye Exposure:

The eye should be rinsed with any *clean* water. The persons head should be *turned* so the affected eye is lower and rinsing should be done from the bridge of the nose to the ear.

Respiratory Exposure:

Take person to fresh air and loosen any clothing that might make breathing difficult. If the person has stopped breathing, mouth-to-mouth resuscitation should be performed by a *trained* person.

Oral Exposure:

In cases of swallowing, it is important to get to a medical facility as soon as possible.



How to obtain emergency medical care:

An agricultural employee *must* be provided with prompt transportation to an appropriate emergency medical facility. Once there, the following information must be given about the pesticide to which the employee was exposed:

- Product name, EPA registration number and active ingredients
- antitode, first aid, and other medical information from the label
- circumstances of application or use of pesticide
- circumstances of exposure

-Also, bring along a clean, uncontaminated pesticide label to the medical facility.

**Pesticide containers should NOT be taken into the medical facility



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Requirements of WPS designed to reduce risks to pesticides from occupational exposures:

⇒ Central Posting of Pesticide Application Information:

Employers are required to post the following information at a central location for 30 days following the end of the REI for each pesticide:

- location and description of the treated area
- product name, EPA registration number, and active ingredients
- times and date of pesticide application
- length of REI
- information as to location of the central location posting



⇒ Restrictions During Application

- WPS restricts entry into treated areas.
- **Only appropriately trained and equipped handlers can enter these areas.*

⇒ Restricted-Entry Intervals (REI)

REI is the amount of time that must pass after a pesticide application before agricultural workers are allowed back into the area to continue working.

⇒ Notification of Pesticide Applications- When They Will Take Place

Employers must either post warning signs around the treated area.
OR
Provide verbal warnings to agricultural workers who might enter the treated area.

- *All greenhouse applications must be posted.*
- **Agricultural workers should understand the significance of posted signs and the importance of obeying verbal and posted warnings.*



⇒ Protection Against Retaliatory Acts

An agricultural employer must not punish or retaliate against an agricultural worker for attempting to comply with the protections that are provided by the WPS.

