

Guidelines for a Safety Plan

I. General Guidelines

All pesticide users must comply with 29 CAR 1910.1200, (OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard). A Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) should be obtained for each type of pesticide used.

Pesticide applicators should receive training on how to read the MSDS and be briefed on the information relating to each particular pesticide they use. Refer to each MSDS for specific information regarding first aid, transportation, storage and handling, disposal, and emergency actions. All users must comply with their individual agency standards regarding safety plans.

II. First Aid

First aid involving chemical exposure should be incorporated into the WMA training and education courses. Personnel involved in all WMA projects should know the name, address, and telephone number of physicians and hospitals where treatment and information can be obtained. Post this information on any facilities where weed management activities occur.

- A. First aid equipment should include a radio, an adequate first aid kit, a sprayer protection kit, a portable eye wash, and spill safety kit.
- B. Emergency action steps necessary in the event of accidental poisoning:
 - 1. Move the individual away from the pesticide and remove contaminated clothing. Wash the pesticide off skin.
 - 2. If the individual is not breathing, or breathing is weak, initiate first aid (refer to label instructions).
 - 3. Notify a physician of the pesticide involved. Administer antidote if advised by physician. Keep patient warm, quiet, and calm.
 - 4. If appropriate, take the individual to the hospital. Have a copy of the pesticide label.
- C. Poison Control Centers
 - 1. In the case of any suspected poisoning accident, call the nearest Poison Control Center at once.

**The Rocky Mountain Poison Control Center number is
1-800-332-3073.**

- 2. Poison Control Centers also provide treatment for poisoning.

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- D. General first aid procedures for various types of exposure:
1. Pesticide on skin: Immediately remove contaminated clothing and wash the affected area thoroughly with soap and water.
 2. Pesticides taken orally: Read label and follow instructions. Consult physician immediately.
 3. Pesticides in the eyes: Hold the eye(s) open and flush with a gentle stream of water for 15 minutes.
 4. Pesticide burns: Remove contaminated clothing, wash skin with large amounts of water, and cover with loose cloth. Treat for shock (see below). Do not treat with ointment or greases.
 5. Pesticides inhaled: Move individual to fresh air, loosen clothing, and administer artificial respiration if breathing has stopped. Treat for shock (see below). If individual is in an enclosed space, do not enter the area without respiratory equipment.
- E. Shock:
- Sometimes poisoning victims go into shock. If untreated or ignored the victim can die from shock even if the poisoning injuries would not be fatal.
1. Shock symptoms.
 - a. Skin is pale, moist, cold and clammy.
 - b. The eyes are vacant and lackluster with dilated pupils.
 - c. Breathing is shallow and irregular.
 - d. Victim may be unconscious or faint.
 2. Treatment of Shock.
 - a. Unless the individual is vomiting, keep the victim flat on their back with legs up 1- to 1-1/2 feet above their head.
 - b. Keep victim warm enough to prevent shivering. Do not overheat.
 - c. If the victim is conscious and has not swallowed any poison, give small amounts of water or a dilute salt solution (1/2 teaspoon table salt to 1 qt. of water). Give as often as the victim will accept it.
 - d. Keep victim quiet and reassure often.
 - e. Never try to give anything by mouth to an unconscious victim.

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III. Transporting Pesticides

- A. Carry pesticides in the secured cargo area of the vehicle, never in the passenger compartment.
- B. Ensure that no container leaks develop, that no container is punctured or ruptured, that no lids or caps are loosened, and paper containers are kept dry.
- C. Take special precautions while loading and stacking pesticide containers on a vehicle. Containers should be secured, so that none can fall or roll about due to vehicle movement.
- D. Containers must never be transported while open. Partially used containers must be securely resealed prior to movement.
- E. After transport, inspect all pesticide containers for damage and leaks. Examine the vehicle carefully for contamination.
- F. Generally, trucks with wooden platforms should not be used since contamination will probably require replacement of the planking.
- G. The vehicle should carry herbicides only - never a mixed load. Trucks used to transport herbicides must never be used to transport food, clothing, beverages, household goods, animal feeds, or similar commodities without prior decontamination.

IV. Storage and Handling

- A. General Safety Guidelines.
Follow these guidelines to minimize spills and accidental contamination and allow better response in the case of fire.
 - 1. Store all pesticides in a secure storage room which is kept locked at all times except when in use. Storage in the field during operations may require a full-time watchman.
 - 2. Use locked storage on all vehicles used in pest control operations and transport of materials.
 - 3. Label all materials in such a manner that the contents of all containers are plainly visible.
 - 4. Keep chemicals separated by type to prevent cross-contamination.
 - 5. Do not use obsolete or unsatisfactory materials and equipment.
 - 6. Permit no smoking or eating in the storage area and post the area with signs to that effect.
 - 7. Identify the pesticide storage area with prominent waterproof signs over each entrance (including windows) and on all sides of building. **Post a list of**

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chemicals on the outside of building, along with storage plan.

8. Inform police, fire department, and medical officials in writing of the location and layout of the storage areas, types of materials stored, and hazards involved. Provide fire chief with telephone numbers of those personnel responsible for storage. Fire companies should map the locations of pesticide chemical storage in their respective areas. "Pesticide Fires: Prevention, Control and Cleanup" is available from AFPMB, Washington, D.C.
 9. Inform the nearest physician and hospital of potential hazards, and ensure that medical personnel know how to treat for pesticide exposure. Ensure that the "Clinical Handbook on Economic Poisons" is available. Obtain copy from HHS, Communicable Disease Center, Office of Pesticides, Atlanta, Georgia 30333.
 10. Obtain desirable fire fighting equipment (extinguishers) and have all employees familiarize themselves with its operation. Be sure the equipment works properly.
 11. Keep pesticide containers, particularly glass, away from windows and sunlight so they will not be subject to heat and ignition.
 12. Keep combustibles away from steam lines and heat. Read label for information on flammability and store accordingly.
 13. Dispose of unlabelled pesticides. Treat them as highly toxic.
 14. Keep a quantity of absorbent material on hand for detoxification.
 15. In the event of container leakage, immediately make drop pans available until repackaging is completed.
 16. Never use milk or beverage bottles, or any type of food containers, for storage of chemicals.
 17. Clean up spilled chemicals immediately or contact your area hazardous materials specialist.
- B. Handling of Pesticides.
It is extremely important to follow label requirements pertaining to the use of safety equipment and clothing. Each job should be assessed for hazard - there may be occasions when common sense requires additional precautions to be taken even though not required by law.

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Pesticide poisoning of applicators or those associated with the application usually occurs from absorption through the skin. To avoid pesticides from coming into contact with the skin, it is recommended that the following minimum requirements apply to **all** pesticide use, regardless of the hazard category (label specifications may require more stringent measures):

1. Coveralls - that cover the entire body from wrists to ankles should be worn at all times during handling, mixing, flagging, or application operations. Pant legs and sleeves should be worn outside of boots and gloves.
 2. Gloves and Boots - should be made of unlined rubber or neoprene material. In some cases the label will specifically state which type of gloves and boots to be used. Check the gloves for leaks prior to use by filling with water and squeezing the glove. Boots should give support around the ankles to prevent injury when walking in rough terrain.
 3. Goggle/Face Shield - Should be worn when pouring or mixing concentrates. Goggles should be non-fogging. Face shields should be made of clear plastic and be attached to the hat so they can be raised and lowered. Do not use goggles or a face shield with a headband that can absorb pesticide.
 4. Hats - should be made of a liquid-proof, washable plastic with plastic sweatband. These hats should be worn during pesticide application, flagging, and mixing operations. Hats with leather sweatbands should not be worn.
 5. Respiratory Device - The respirator must properly fit the face, so that air leakage does not occur. The user must be clean shaven. Use only equipment that is approved by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health or the Mining Enforcement and Safety Administration. The user must be instructed in its use.
- C. The following additional guidelines should be followed when handling pesticides:
1. Handle full barrels of chemicals with care to avoid personal injury - use barrel rolls if applicable.
 2. To minimize inhalation, handle all pesticides in well ventilated areas only.

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3. Immediately wash **any** contamination off the skin with detergent and water. Frequent washing of the skin during and after pesticide application is as important as protective clothing.

IV. Container Disposal

Pesticide containers retain a small amount of pesticide even after being triple rinsed. Therefore, the disposal of all pesticide containers must comply with Federal, State, and local laws. County extension agents, county weed supervisors, or state regulatory officials are familiar with the local requirements.

- A. Account for every used container and never allow unrestricted use by individuals
- B. All liquid containers must be rinsed at least three times prior to disposal. The rinse water should be sprayed on to the treatment area.
- C. Disposal of containers must be made in accordance to local and state regulations. Some landfills will not accept pesticide containers.

V. Emergency Action

It is extremely important that pesticide project plans include a carefully thought out course of action which addresses emergency situations. Without prior planning, unnecessary delays and additional damage or injury could occur as a result of a spill or fire. Everyone involved in the project should be aware of the procedures and their responsibilities for implementation.

VI. Pesticide Spills and Cleanup

Pesticide spills and cleanup require immediate action based on foresight and preparation. All reasonable precautions should be taken to avoid spilling pesticides, but accidents will occur. Accidents are most likely to happen when pesticides are being transported or in a storage area. A spill kit carried in vehicles and kept in pesticide storage areas will allow quick and effective response to spills.

Some important items in a typical spill kit include:

1. Protective clothing and gloves
2. Adsorptive clay or “kitty litter”
3. Plastic bags and bucket

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4. Shovel
5. Fiber brush and screw-in handle
6. Dust pan
7. Highway flares
8. Detergent

Response to a pesticide spill may vary with size and location of the spill, but the following are usually appropriate:

1. Control traffic.
2. Dress clean-up team with protective clothing.
3. Stop leaks.
4. Contain spilled material.
5. Clean up and remove spilled pesticide and contaminated adsorptive material and soil.
6. Transport spilled pesticide and contaminated material to a DEQ authorized disposal site.

VII. Reporting Spills

Contact CHEMTREC, the Chemical Transportation Emergency Center, at its toll-free number:

1-800-424-9300

If federal agencies are one of the cooperator's, contact the nearest Hazardous Materials Specialist for assistance.