

Who to call...

...for medical advice:

- Consult a physician
- Washington Poison Control Center:
(800) 732-6985

...to report pesticide misuse:

WA State Department of Agriculture:
1-877-301-4555

The WSDA is responsible for enforcing pesticide regulations. If you are concerned about the use or misuse of a pesticide, wish to register a complaint, or desire general pesticide information, call WSDA's toll-free number to reach the branch office nearest you. Offices are located in Olympia, Yakima, Wenatchee, Spokane and Moses Lake.

If you register a complaint, the investigator will need to know where and when the incident occurred, who was involved, and how to contact you for more information.

Place clothing worn during the exposure or other contaminated items in a plastic bag and save it until an investigator can pick it up for analysis. Do not disturb the incident area as additional samples of foliage, soil or water may be collected. All items should be stored in the freezer.

...to report a pesticide spill:

WA State Department of Ecology:

NW Region, Bellevue
(425) 649-7000

SW Region, Lacey
(360) 407-6000

Central Region, Yakima
(509) 575-2490

Eastern Region, Spokane
(509) 456-2926

...for general information on the health effects of exposure:

WA State Department of Health:

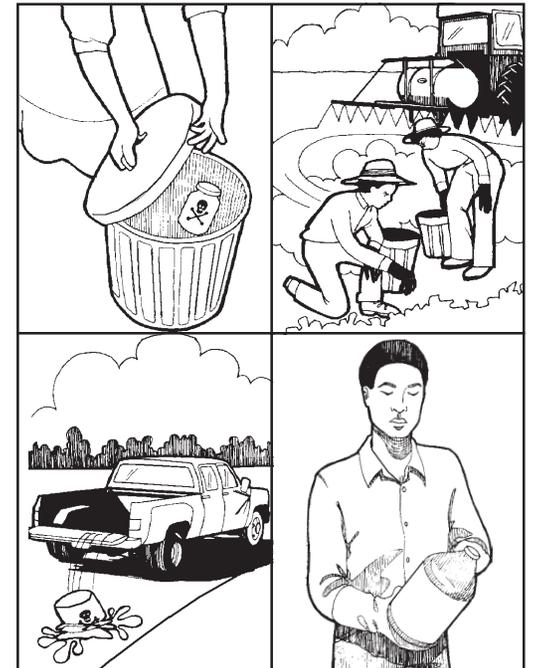
Olympia *Yakima*
(360) 236-3361 (509) 575-2056

**National Pesticide
Telecommunications Network :**

1-800-858-7378
e-mail: npth@ace.orst.edu

EXPOSED TO A PESTICIDE

What to do, who to call



WSDA WASHINGTON STATE
**DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

Pesticide Management Division
P.O. Box 42560
Olympia, WA 98504-2560

Safety First

Pesticides are designed to be toxic to the weed, insect, rodent or other targeted pest and not harmful to people applying them when label directions are followed.

Not all pesticides are toxic or dangerous to humans but, to be safe, it is best to prevent exposure by handling pesticides safely. Accidents or misuse of pesticides can cause illness or injury.

What should I do if I am exposed to a pesticide?

If you are exposed to a pesticide, get to fresh air, wash it away from your skin, and then call a physician or the Washington Poison Control Center for advice on first aid.

Washington Poison Control Center (800) 732-6985

Be prepared to give the physician or the Washington Poison Control Center the:

- *Present condition of the patient*
- *Name of the pesticide*
- *Type of first aid already administered*
- *Information on the pesticide label if you can access it safely*
- *Your location and the exposed person's location.*



What first aid should be done if I am exposed to a pesticide?

Appropriate first aid depends on the type of pesticide used and the type of exposure that occurs. Refer to the label for the "Statement of Practical Treatment". The following tips can help, but are not a substitute for medical advice or treatment.

Skin contact – Wash the exposed skin area with running water for 10 to 15 minutes; use soap if available. Any source of water will do in an emergency, but, of course, clean water is best. Call a physician or the Washington Poison Control Center for further advice.

Eye contact – Open eyelid and wash the eye slowly and gently with clean water for 10 to 15 minutes. Make sure the water is not too hot or too cold. Call a physician or the Washington Poison Control Center.

Inhaled – Get to fresh air. Call a physician or the Washington Poison Control Center for further advice. If the person is unconscious, call 911.

Swallowed – If the person is alert and able to swallow, give them milk or water. Call a physician or the Washington Poison Control Center for further advice.

Clothing should be discarded or washed separately from other laundry. However, do not wash the clothes if you plan to file a complaint with Department of Agriculture. Instead, put clothing or other items in a clean plastic bag and save it until an investigator can pick it up for analysis.

What are the symptoms of pesticide poisoning?

Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, headache, dizziness, shortness of breath. If you think someone is suffering from pesticide poisoning, get them away from the pesticide and call a physician or the Washington Poison Control Center for advice.

Who is at greatest risk of exposure?

People who mix or apply pesticides are at greatest risk. However, people who use pesticides in or around the home may also be at risk, especially if they do not follow the instructions on the label.

Are all pesticide exposures the same?

No. Effects vary depending on the product, the amount, the type of exposure, and the duration.

Toxicity – Varies from product to product. Toxicity is the potential a chemical has to cause harm. Some pesticides have low human toxicity while others are extremely toxic.

Dose – The more pesticide you are exposed to, the greater the risk of injury. The effect of a given dose varies with the age and weight of the victim. An amount that is relatively harmless to an adult may hurt a small child.

Types of exposure – Routes of exposure are: on the skin, in the eyes, swallowing, or inhalation. Swallowing is usually the most serious exposure. The most common type of exposure is skin contact.

Duration – The longer the exposure, the more chemical absorbed by the body, the greater the risk.

Physical and chemical properties – Some pesticides evaporate more quickly than others, increasing the risk of inhalation. Some pesticides break-down quickly when applied to surfaces; others last longer in the environment.

If you are sensitive to pesticides...

Any person with a documented pesticide sensitivity can be placed on a list to be notified in advance of certain urban pesticide applications. For more information you may contact the Washington State Department of Agriculture at 1-877-301-4555 or visit our Web site at:

<http://www.wa.gov/agr/PestFert>



PUB 042 (R/11/02)

Inquiries regarding the availability of this publication in an alternate format should be directed to the WSDA receptionist at (360) 902-1976 or Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (360) 902-1996.