

MAFES Dawg Tracks



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Handle Pesticides Safely



Whenever we transport, store, mix, load or apply pesticides, there are several things that we need to be conscious of:

- Keep all unauthorized people and all children away from concentrated pesticides.
- Keep pesticides storage areas locked.
- Store all pesticides away from food and feed.
- Wear approved and proper Personal Protective Equipment when mixing and/or applying pesticides.
- Clean up leaks and spills immediately.
- Know the symptoms of pesticide poisonings.

STORING PESTICIDES:

Proper storage of pesticides can greatly reduce accidents -

- Store pesticides in well-ventilated and dry areas.
- Post the proper signage at the entrance of the storage areas, "Danger-Pesticides".
- Keep the storage area locked when not in use.
- Keep animals, kids, and outsiders out of the storage area.
- Order sufficient amounts for your needs, but refrain from holding surpluses and carryovers. Maintain a bi-annual inventory for enhanced control of the stock.
- Keep in original containers and if another type has to be used, make sure that it is in an approved substitute with all the proper labels affixed.
- Always keep pesticides segregated from food products, fertilizers and livestock feeds.
- Make periodic checks for leaks and spills.

TRANSPORTING PESTICIDES:

- Check the vehicle that the pesticides will be transported on for good repairs, etc.
- Make sure that the caps are secure; labels are in place and get an accurate account of the number of containers.
- Make sure that when loading the truck that provisions to pack the containers are in place to avoid having them rolling around during transporting.
- Do not allow anyone to ride in the back with pesticides and never transport them in the cab of the vehicle.
- Carry a safety kit in the truck, which should include a card with emergency phone numbers, gloves, face protection, wooden dowel pegs for potential leaks, duct tape, proper clothing, respirator (if the type of pesticides requires the use.) Take a container of "oil dri" or clean sand in case of a spill and carry a copies of the MSDS for the trip/

MIXING PESTICIDES:

- Mix pesticides carefully and accurately. Use only the recommended amount.
- Wear the Proper Personal Equipment such as gloves, goggles or face shield and other required clothing.

- Open all liquid chemicals below eye level to avoid splashes and spilling. Pour liquids as close to the ground as possible.
- Open powders and granular chemicals with scissors to reduce the chances of dust as much as possible.
- Mix with the proper tools and in a well lit and well ventilated area.

LOADING AND MIXING PESTICIDES:

- If loading and mixing in an open or semi-protected area, check the weather conditions.
- Under the same conditions, stand with your back to the winds so that if there are fumes or vapors they will blow off and away from you.
- Keep your head a safe distance from the tank opening to avoid splashes. Don't use your hands to retrieve possible fallen objects in the container or tank,
- Always have someone to remain at the tank to observe the filling and fill the tank with water away from the pesticide. It's a good idea to fill the tank in the fields where possible.

APPLYING PESTICIDES:

- Obviously calibrating the equipment for correct deliveries is most important.
- Check all hoses, connections and fittings for leaks, breaks, etc.
- Check weather conditions so that in a strong wind, you won't need to spray because of the drift and in heavy rains, the pesticide will wash off and could possible wash to a non-target areas.
- Shut off the rig when turning around at the end of the rows.
- If the booms become clogged or are not working properly, take the necessary precautions when fixing it. Protect your self with gloves, goggles or shield and clothing.
- After spraying, obey the re-entry periods. When necessary, post warnings for further safety.

CLEANING UP:

Cleaning up after spraying is very important to avoid contamination.

- Pressure rinse or triple rinse all empty containers.
- Flush all hoses.
- Never dump chemicals where they might pollute the groundwater or be a hazard.
- Clean up spills with oil dri or clean sand and avoid runoffs.
- Clean all your equipment thoroughly.

**EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED.
GEAR UP FOR SAFETY!!**

ALERT TODAY - ALIVE TOMORROW!