

MAFES Dawg Tracks

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MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
MS AGRICULTURAL AND
FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION

*Working Safely
Around Pesticides*

Pesticides can be harmful if care isn't take when we are using them. Certain precautions should be practiced when using and applying them. Following we shall discuss tips and suggestions that can aid in their use and handling.

PESTICIDES CAN BE HARMFUL-

- Pesticides are an effective way to kill pests on plants and crops.
- It's very important to take extra care when working with pesticides to avoid injury.
- Some pesticides are toxic. Exposure to very small amounts of concentrated pesticides can cause chemical burns, blindness, lung injuries or even death.
- You can work safely with pesticides, but that means:
 - ~ Not getting pesticides on your skin.
 - ~ Not swallowing pesticides or allowing them to come in contact with any food.
 - ~ Not getting pesticides in your eyes.
 - ~ Not breathing any pesticides.

HOW TO AVOID PESTICIDE EXPOSURE-

- ✓ Be very careful when you are handling pesticides.
- ✓ Refrain from short cuts and don't get in a hurry.
- ✓ Read the label carefully before you open a pesticide container. The label will tell you what personal protective equipment (PPE) to use and what to do if you are accidentally exposed.
- ✓ Be sure to read the safety precautions. If, by chance, the label is missing or you can't read the directions, ask your supervisor for help. You can get the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS), which gives you all the needed information.
- ✓ Always wear the specified personal protective equipment required (PPE) on the label or the MSDS. The needed or required PPE is specified on the label. The requirements will depend upon the toxic level of the pesticide. You may be required to wear a respirator, protective eyewear, chemical resistant gloves, an apron or a coverall.

DO:

- ~ Keep personal clothing, food, drinks, gum, cigarettes and other belongs away from pesticides.
- ~ Always use PPE when handling pesticides.
- ~ Avoid sitting in a chair or using a telephone when wearing contaminated clothing.

IF YOU ARE ACCIDENTLY EXPOSED-

- ✓ Make sure animals and other people are out of the way.
- ✓ Mix and load the pesticides at a slow and level pace.
- ✓ Obey all pesticide warning signs and verbal warnings.
- ✓ Wash the outside of your gloves before removing them. Wash your hands and face before you eat, drink, smoke, chew gum, use the toilet or put on makeup.
- ✓ Never rub your eyes or touch your face or bare skin with contaminated clothing or gloves.
- ✓ Never re-wear pesticide-contaminated clothing.
- ✓ Keep all PPE clean and in good operating condition. Always wash contaminated clothing separately from other clothing.
- ✓ Store protective equipment carefully in a place where it won't become contaminated again before the next use.
- ✓ Take a shower before you go home. Wash your body and hair thoroughly.

IF YOU ARE ACCIDENTLY EXPOSED-

- Immediately stop working if you are splashed or sprayed with a pesticide, if you feel dizzy, have trouble breathing or otherwise ill.
- Call for help and get out of the pesticide-treated area if you can. Have someone call your Superintendent or Facility Coordinator.
- If a pesticide splashes or sprays on you, immediately remove your contaminated clothing and PPE, then proceed to wash your body and hands thoroughly with soap and water.
- If a pesticide gets in your eyes, immediately rinse with an eye flush kit or get to an eye wash station. Hold your eyes open and rinse them for 15 minutes. Get medical help as soon as possible.

DON'T:

- Take pesticides or empty pesticide containers home with you.
- Wear leather or canvas shoes, or leather or fabric gloves when working with pesticides.
- Take off your gloves or PPE when you're working with pesticides.

**SAFETY'S INTENTION
IS
ACCIDENT PREVENTION
SAFE TODAY  ALIVE TOMORROW**