

WPS TRAINING TOPICS

CHAPTER 4

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Worker Protection Standard (WPS) Training Topics

Trainers who will provide WPS pesticide safety training may find it challenging to know exactly which topics must be covered during a WPS training for workers and how those topics differ from the information provided to handlers.

Much of the general pesticide safety information included in the WPS is pertinent to both workers and handlers. However, since handlers work directly with pesticides when performing tasks such as mixing, loading or applying pesticides, or cleaning and repairing equipment, they must receive additional information on how to work safely with pesticide products.

Table 4.1 identifies the topics that must be included in detail during a WPS training. The first section displays the information that must be provided to both workers and handlers, while the second section lists additional points for handler training. Chapters 5 and 6 expand on these topics and include details that trainers must provide during training.



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Weber, Arizona Department of Agriculture

Table 4.1: WPS Training Topics ~ Effective January 2, 2018

| AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYEE TASKS AND RESTRICTIONS | Agricultural Workers | Pesticide Handlers |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. The rule prohibits agricultural employers from allowing or directing any worker to mix, load, or apply pesticides or assist in the application of pesticides, unless the worker has been trained as a handler. | ✓ | ✓ |
| 2. Agricultural employers must provide specific information to workers before directing them to perform early-entry tasks. Workers must be at least 18 years old to perform early-entry tasks. | ✓ | ✓ |
| WHERE YOU MAY ENCOUNTER PESTICIDES AT WORK AND HOW THEY CAN ENTER YOUR BODY | Agricultural Workers | Pesticide Handlers |
| 3. Where and in what form pesticides may be encountered during work tasks, and potential sources of pesticide exposure on the agricultural establishment. This includes exposure to pesticide residues that may be on or in plants, soil, tractors, application and chemigation equipment, or used personal protective equipment (PPE), and that pesticides may drift through the air from nearby applications or be in irrigation water. | ✓ | ✓ |
| 4. Routes through which pesticides can enter the body. | ✓ | ✓ |
| PESTICIDE-RELATED HEALTH EFFECTS | Agricultural Workers | Pesticide Handlers |
| 5. Signs and symptoms of common types of pesticide poisoning. | ✓ | ✓ |
| 6. Potential hazards to children and pregnant women from pesticide exposure. | ✓ | ✓ |
| 7. Potential hazards from toxicity and exposure that pesticides present to workers and their families, including acute and chronic effects, delayed effects, and sensitization. | ✓ | ✓ |
| 8. Potential hazards from pesticide residue on clothing. | ✓ | ✓ |

| WAYS TO REDUCE THE RISK OF PESTICIDE EXPOSURE | Agricultural Workers | Pesticide Handlers |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 9. How to recognize and understand the meaning of the posted warning signs used for notifying workers of restrictions on entering pesticide treated areas on the establishment. | ✓ | ✓ |
| 10. How to follow directions and/or signs about keeping out of pesticide treated areas subject to a restricted-entry interval and application exclusion zones. | ✓ | ✓ |
| 11. When working in pesticide treated areas, wear work clothing that protects the body from pesticide residues and wash hands before eating, drinking, smoking, chewing gum or tobacco, or using the toilet. | ✓ | ✓ |
| 12. Wash or shower with soap and water, shampoo hair, and change into clean clothes as soon as possible after working in pesticide treated areas. | ✓ | ✓ |
| 13. After working in pesticide treated areas, remove work boots or shoes before entering your home, remove work clothes and wash or shower before physical contact with children or family members. | ✓ | ✓ |
| 14. Wash work clothes before wearing them again and wash them separately from other clothes. | ✓ | ✓ |
| 15. Do not take pesticides or pesticide containers used at work to your home. | ✓ | ✓ |
| 16. Keep children and nonworking family members away from pesticide-treated areas. | ✓ | ✓ |

| FIRST AID FOR PESTICIDE ILLNESSES AND INJURIES | Agricultural Workers | Pesticide Handlers |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <p>17. Routine and emergency decontamination procedures, including emergency eye flushing techniques, and if pesticides are spilled or sprayed on the body to use decontamination supplies to wash immediately or rinse off in the nearest clean water, including springs, streams, lakes or other sources if more readily available than decontamination supplies, and as soon as possible, wash or shower with soap and water, shampoo hair, and change into clean clothes.</p> | ✓ | ✓ |
| <p>18. How and when to obtain emergency medical care.</p> | ✓ | ✓ |
| <p>19. Emergency first aid for pesticide injuries or poisonings.</p> | ✓ | ✓ |
| <p>20. Safety data sheets (SDSs) provide hazard, emergency medical treatment and other information about the pesticides used on the establishment workers and handlers may come in contact with. It is the responsibility of agricultural employers to do all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Display SDSs for all pesticides used on the establishment. • Provide workers and handlers information about the location of the SDSs on the establishment. • Provide workers and handlers unimpeded access to SDSs during normal working hours. | ✓ | ✓ |

| ADDITIONAL EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITIES | Agricultural Workers | Pesticide Handlers |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <p>21. The rule prohibits agricultural employers from intimidating, threatening, coercing or discriminating against any worker or handler for complying with or attempting to comply with the requirements of this rule, or because the worker or handler provided, caused to be provided or is about to provide information to the employer or the EPA or its agents regarding conduct that the employee reasonably believes violates this part, and/or made a complaint, testified, assisted or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing concerning compliance with this rule.</p> | ✓ | ✓ |
| <p>22. The responsibility of agricultural employers to provide workers and handlers with information and protections designed to reduce work-related pesticide exposures and illnesses. This includes ensuring workers and handlers have been trained on pesticide safety and application and hazard information, decontamination supplies and emergency medical assistance, and notifying workers of restrictions during applications and on entering pesticide-treated areas. A worker or handler may designate in writing a representative to request access to pesticide application and hazard information.</p> | ✓ | ✓ |
| <p>23. How to report suspected pesticide use violations to the state or tribal agency responsible for pesticide enforcement.</p> | ✓ | ✓ |

| PESTICIDE LABEL INFORMATION | Agricultural Workers | Pesticide Handlers |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 24. Format and meaning of information contained on pesticide labels and in labeling applicable to the safe use of pesticides. | | ✓ |
| 25. Handlers must follow the portions of the label applicable to the safe use of pesticides. | | ✓ |
| PROTECTING PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT WHEN USING PESTICIDES | Agricultural Workers | Pesticide Handlers |
| 26. Handlers must be at least 18 years old. | | ✓ |
| 27. Information on proper application and use of pesticides. | | ✓ |
| 28. The responsibility of agricultural employers to post treated areas as required by this rule. | | ✓ |
| 29. Handlers must not apply pesticides in a manner that results in contact with workers or other persons. | | ✓ |
| 30. Handlers must suspend a pesticide application if workers or other persons are in the application exclusion zone. | | ✓ |
| 31. Environmental concerns, such as drift, runoff, and wildlife hazards. | | ✓ |
| 32. Safety requirements for handling, transporting, storing, and disposing of pesticides including general procedures for spill cleanup. | | ✓ |

| PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) | Agricultural Workers | Pesticide Handlers |
|---|----------------------|--------------------|
| 33. Need for and appropriate use and removal of all PPE. | | ✓ |
| 34. How to recognize, prevent and provide first aid treatment for heat-related illness. | | ✓ |
| 35. The responsibility of agricultural employers to provide handlers with information and protections designed to reduce work-related pesticide exposures and illnesses. This includes providing, cleaning, maintaining, storing, and ensuring proper use of all required PPE; providing decontamination supplies; and providing specific information about pesticide use and labeling information. | | ✓ |
| 36. The responsibility of agricultural employers to ensure handlers have received respirator fit-testing, training, and a medical evaluation if they are required to wear a respirator by the product labeling. | | ✓ |