

CAN AGRICULTURAL WORKERS ENTER DURING THE REI?

PAGE 1: WORKER INFORMATION

A Restricted-Entry Interval (REI) is the time after a pesticide application when workers employed by establishments are not allowed to enter the treated area. For example, it might be four hours or 72 hours. The REI is a legal requirement as described on the pesticide's label. However, there might be time-sensitive needs like a burst irrigation line or a pending frost, so extra protection is required for "early-entry workers."

Frequently Asked Questions

- Can you enter the area during the pesticide application?.....No.
- Can you enter before ventilation criteria have been met?Only with no contact.
- Can you enter within the first four hours after the application?Only with no contact.
- Are you required to have WPS worker training within the last year?.....Yes, at least.
- Is there an age requirement for early-entry workers?Yes, 18.
- Do early entry workers have to understand all label statements related to human hazards, precautions, and user safety?.....Yes, for each individual label.
- Do you have extra supplies to respond in case of an exposure?.....Soap, water, single-use towels, and a clean change of clothing must be nearby.
- What about a pesticide that's harmful to the eyes, requiring goggles?.....You must wear goggles AND keep 1 pint of water immediately available while doing early entry tasks.
- Are special instructions necessary each time it happens?.....Yes. See Box 1 on Page 2.
- Do early entry workers need training before using PPE?.....Yes. See Box 2 on Page 2. It may be their first time.

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PAGE 2: EMPLOYER INFORMATION

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Employer: reasons to allow early entry

As an employer, you may only permit early-entry activities if at least one of the following reasons (exceptions) applies:

1. No contact with treated surfaces (no hand labor*, no time limit)
2. Short-term contact (no hand labor*, one-hour maximum)
3. Limited contact (no hand labor*, only allowed for unforeseen events w/potential for significant economic loss, eight-hour maximum)
4. Irrigation tasks only (no hand labor*, eight-hour maximum)
5. Agricultural emergency (must be a sudden occurrence that could not have been anticipated or controlled and with no alternative solutions)

*What is "hand labor?"

Activities performed by hand, or with a hand-held tool, that causes a worker to have substantial contact with treated surfaces like plants or soil. Examples include harvesting, detasseling, thinning, weeding, topping, planting, girdling, sucker removal, pruning, disbudding, and packing product in the field.

Employers: instructions for early-entry workers

1. What was applied, where, and when; when will the REI end?
2. Is contact with treated surfaces permitted?
3. How long can the workers remain in the area?
4. Where to find PPE, central posting, and decontamination supplies
5. How to inspect, use, and remove PPE?
6. Which exception applies to this early-entry situation? (See 1-5 above.)

Employers: what do early-entry workers need to know before using PPE?

2. How to prevent, recognize, and seek treatment for heat-related illness
3. How to use and remove PPE
4. As appropriate, how to clean, maintain, and dispose of PPE
5. Never bring used PPE home