



Agribusiness & Food Solutions

# Safety & Loss Prevention: Pesticide Safety



Pesticide exposure is harmful to not only the employees who apply and prepare the pesticides, but also to the workers who handle the treated crops and soil. Pesticides can reside on workers' clothing, boots and skin, subsequently exposing the worker's family members. All Pesticide labels and (Safety Data Sheets) SDS will give the information on the following key points:

Pesticide exposure causes farmworkers to suffer more chemical-related injuries and illnesses than any other workforce in the nation (Farmworker Justice, 2017).

## What are the Health Impacts?

- Short-term: rashes, blisters, stinging eyes, blindness, nausea, dizziness, headaches, coma and death
- Long-term: infertility, birth defects, endocrine disruption, neurological disorders, cancer and death

EMPLOYEES MUST WEAR:

### How to Protect Your Body



*Eye protection when mixing, loading or applying pesticides. Eyeglasses or sunglasses do not provide adequate protection.*



*Clean, chemical-resistant gloves when mixing, loading or applying pesticides. Employees must wash their hands before eating, drinking, smoking or going to the bathroom.*



*A respirator while using harmful pesticides anytime the label requires one, or if you are mixing, loading or applying most pesticides.*



*Clothes with long sleeves and long pants, boots, socks, a hat and/or scarf and gloves. Employees should bathe promptly after returning home and wash exposed clothing separately after each use.*

## EMPLOYEES SHOULD:

## First Aid



*Hold the eyelid open and rinse with clean running water from the tap or gentle stream from a hose at least 15 minutes.*



*Go to fresh air immediately and make sure clothing is loose and nonrestrictive.*



*Wash immediately with clean water if pesticides are spilled or sprayed on clothing or skin.*



*Only induce vomiting if recommended by emergency personnel. Follow recommendations of EMS personnel.*

Employees should read and /or understand all labels and Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for all pesticide hazards they are exposed to.

For more information, please see the [EPA's Agricultural Worker Protection Standard \(WPS\)](#)

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