



September 2008

Keeping employees safe with pesticides and chemicals *-Eighth in a series*

When you have employees working with or around pesticides and chemicals, you want to make sure and keep them safe. You also need to have plans in place before pesticides and chemicals are used. When OSHA does inspections, they have a checklist that they go through. This article will outline hallmarks of a good plan for decontamination sites, first aid and emergency assistance (especially related to pesticides), pesticide storage, and housekeeping as related to pesticides.

DECONTAMINATION SITES: You need to have decontamination sites set up in case a worker has physical contact with harmful pesticides.

Handler Decontamination Site (needs to be provided for the duration of the handling activity):

- **Locations:**
 - At the mix/load area.
 - Within 1/4 mile of the application site.
 - Where Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is removed.
- **Supplies:**
 - 3 gallons of water, soap, paper towels and a change of clothing.
 - 15 minute eye wash available at mix/load site (required when label specifies “emergency eyewash required,” or label states DANGER, POISON and/or

CORROSIVE).

- Eye flush water bottles immediately available if label requires protective eyewear.

Worker Decontamination Site (needs to be in place for 30 days following the expiration of the restricted entry interval [REI]):

- **Locations:** Within 1/4 mile of the work site.
- **Supplies:** 1 gallon of water, soap & paper towels.

FIRST AID AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

- Person at all worksites with first aid training
- First aid kit on site
- Supervisor checks are done
- Radio communication is available
- Emergency medical plan in place
- Provisions taken to avoid heat related illness
- Employees are involved in a medical monitoring program for pesticide use
- Transportation is made available to any employee who becomes sick/injured by pesticides
- Provisions are made to supply information about the pesticide to medical personnel
- Knowledge available of previous pesticide poisoning incidents at the establishment

PESTICIDE STORAGE

- Isolated
- Posted & locked (restricted use)
- Incompatibles separated
- Stored by category (restricted use)
- Spill containment (restricted use)
- Secondary labeling
- Flammables stored in approved cabinet
- Storage areas are:
 - Clean
 - No spills present
 - Shelves are non-absorbent (restricted use)
 - Floors are non-absorbent (restricted use)
 - Ventilation (natural or mechanical)
 - Lighting (natural or artificial)

HOUSEKEEPING

- Daily clean up
- Spill procedures in place
- Containers are triple rinsed
- Equipment decontamination procedures are in place
- Containers are confined

Respectfully,

Juanita Wilcox
Hines Horticulture
OAN Safety Committee Member

The OAN safety committee is looking for new committee members. The committee is a great way for people to learn new OSHA rules, new ideas on safety training and to network with other nursery people involved with safety programs. The committee meets 6 times per year at the OAN office in Wilsonville. If you or anyone else at your nursery is interested in becoming involved, please contact Krista Jeli at the OAN at 503-682-5089 or email kjeli@oan.org.

Additional Resources:

- OAN online safety resources: <http://www.oan.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=69>
- Your workers compensation insurance provider and/or broker
- Oregon OSHA: <http://www.orosha.org/> or at (503) 378-3272

