



# Accident Response Procedures when working with pesticides

Although pesticides can be dangerous, they are unlikely to harm you if you:

- Handle the products carefully
- Follow label directions
- Wear all the protective clothing and personal protective equipment you need.

However, in spite of all precautions, accidents can still happen.

**Learn the signs of pesticide poisoning and know what to do in an emergency.**

Remember that the symptoms of a fatal pesticide poisoning can look like the flu or heat exhaustion. If someone has been working with pesticides and you see any possible symptoms of pesticide poisoning, take emergency action immediately.

## Pesticide Label First Aid Information

**Read the Label:**

- Read the First Aid section of the label before you begin to handle any pesticide.
- Take note of the Registration Number (L-number) on the First Aid label. This number will be important if you need to contact the Poison Information Centre in case of an accident.
- Take the label or container with you.
- Provide the label or container to emergency personnel.

## Steps to Follow in the Event of Pesticide Poisoning

**Always protect yourself from injury first.**

**Check to see if the victim is conscious.**

**Check to see if the victim is breathing.**

**(a) If the victim is not breathing:**

- Straighten the victim's airway and check for breaths.
- If the victim does not begin to breathe, administer mouth-to-mouth rescue breathing until the victim begins to breathe on his/her own.

- Do not contaminate yourself, especially if the victim has pesticide or vomit around his face or mouth. Use a protective airway device with a one way valve. Do not breathe the exhaled air from the victim.
- Perform CPR if the victim's pulse disappears. You should only perform CPR if you are trained to do so.

**(b) If the victim is breathing, but unconscious:**

- Place the victim in the recovery position (on the side with the head turned slightly to one side). If the victim vomits, try to keep the airway clear.
- Stop the exposure to the pesticide.
- Move the victim away from the contaminated area. Remove all contaminated clothing. Use soap and water to wash any skin exposed to the pesticide.
- Call the Poison Information Centre - don't waste time.

## If Pesticide Contacts Skin

- Remove contaminated clothing and rinse skin with plenty of water.
- Wash skin, hair, nails, and underneath nails thoroughly with lots of soap and water. Repeat.
- Dry victim and wrap him/her in a blanket or other clean material.
- Contact the Poison Information Centre.
- Watch the victim carefully for signs of severe allergic reaction that may lead to anaphylactic shock.

## Signs and symptoms of severe allergic reactions include:

- Swelling of the lips, ears, hands and/or feet.
- Redness of the skin over the body such as a raised, itchy, blotchy rash (hives).
- Weakness, dizziness.
- Breathing difficulty, coughing and wheezing that can progress to an obstructed airway as the tongue and throat swell.

**NB. Call the Emergency Services immediately if the victim has any breathing difficulty or complains that his/her throat is closing**