



Office of Environmental Health
 Hazard Assessment/Pesticide
 Epidemiology Section

1001 I Street, P.O. Box 4010 •
 Mailstop 12B •
 Sacramento, CA 95812-4010 •
 916-327-7319 •
<http://www.oehha.ca.gov/> •



Public's Guide to Pesticide-Related Illness and Injury



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IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS YOU BELIEVE WERE CAUSED BY EXPOSURE TO PESTICIDES (INCLUDING HOUSEHOLD DISINFECTANTS AND SANITIZERS):

- ◆ For emergencies or serious illness, call 911 for help;
- ◆ Have someone take you to a doctor or hospital or call the California Poison Control System at 1-800-222-1222;
- ◆ Have the pesticide label or container, MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet), or name of the pesticide with you;
- ◆ Remove any pesticides from your skin by removing contaminated clothing and showering; and
- ◆ Remind your health care provider to report the illness or injury to their local health department.

WHAT SHOULD YOU LOOK FOR IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE A PESTICIDE-RELATED ILLNESS OR INJURY?

- ◆ Mild symptoms: headache, rash, flu-like symptoms, eye irritation or redness.
- ◆ More severe symptoms: difficulty breathing, burns or blistering, shaking, tremors, blurred vision, eye injuries.

WHO IS AT RISK?

- ◆ Workers involved in mixing, loading, applying pesticides; pesticide production and reformulation. Field workers re-entering treated fields without proper protection.
- ◆ Persons improperly or frequently using pesticides at home.
- ◆ Children at home where pesticides are used or stored improperly. Persons exposed to off-site pesticide drift.

WHY SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION?

- ◆ Health care providers can provide more effective treatment if they know you work with pesticides or have used pesticides recently
- ◆ When providers report the illnesses, the information helps county and state officials identify problem pesticides and use violations and improve workplace safety.

CONFIDENTIALITY:

Your personal health information will remain confidential.

For additional pesticide information call the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment at (916) 327-7319 or the Department of Pesticide Regulation at (916) 445-4222.