Protecting Farmworkers and their Families:

Examining new requirements to minimize pesticide exposure

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Disclosure and Disclaimer

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Disclosure: We have no real or perceived vested interests that relate to this presentation nor do we have any relationships with pharmaceutical companies, biomedical device manufacturers, and/or other corporations whose products or services are related to pertinent therapeutic areas.

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Learning Objectives

1. Be familiar with the Worker Protection Standard
2. Recognize how changes in the WPS will impact agricultural workers and their families
3. Identify resources to educate farmworkers and other stakeholders about the WPS and tools to help prevent, diagnose and manage pesticide exposures
What is the WPS?

“A Worker Protection Standard for Agricultural Pesticides”
Intended to reduce the risks of illness or injury to workers and handlers resulting from occupational exposures to pesticides in the production of agricultural plants
WPS Framework

• Inform
• Protect
• Mitigate
Inform
In the current rule, how often are workers required to be trained?
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<td>Health effects of pesticides</td>
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<td>How to reduce exposures at work and prevent take-home exposures</td>
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<td>Location of detailed information about pesticides recently applied</td>
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<td>How to follow directions and/or signs about keeping out of pesticide-treated areas</td>
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<td>Decontamination procedures and emergency medical assistance</td>
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<td>How to report violations to state enforcement agencies</td>
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Pesticide safety information
Emergency assistance
Workers may designate another individual to access information about the pesticides used in their worksites.
Clinician Access to Information
When an agricultural worker seeks medical assistance due to pesticide exposure, employers must promptly make available SDSs, product information, and application information to medical personnel.
Protect
Under the current WPS, what is the minimum age to handle pesticides?
Minimum age
Minimum Age

• Pesticide handlers and early-entry workers (entering during REI) must be at least 18 years old

• Members of owner’s immediate family are exempt from this requirement
Restricted entry intervals (REIs)
Application exclusion zones (AEZs)
Application Exclusion Zone or AEZ

A small (25-100-foot) area around the pesticide application equipment where no one is permitted to be during a pesticide application. If an applicator sees a non-trained and unprotected person within this zone, they must suspend the application immediately and resume after the person leaves the area.
The AEZ moves with the application equipment like a halo around the application equipment. As the application equipment moves, new areas around the application become part of the AEZ, and areas that were in the AEZ cease to be within the AEZ once the application equipment has moved on.
Personal protective equipment (PPE)
Personal Protective Equipment

When a respirator is required, employer must provide handlers with the following before any activity requiring the respirator:

– Medical evaluation
– Fit test
– Respirator training
Mitigate
Decontamination
Decontamination

Provide 1 gallon of water for each worker and 3 gallons for each handler and each early entry workers measured at the beginning of the work period.
Emergency eyewash
Emergency Assistance
Employers must provide “prompt” transportation to an emergency medical facility for workers or handlers who may have been exposed to pesticide
Requires employers to promptly provide the product’s Safety Data Sheet (SDS), product information (name, EPA Reg No and active ingredient), as well as the circumstances of the exposure to treating medical personnel.
Anti-retaliation

Workers cannot be fired or punished for attempting to comply with or exercising their rights under the WPS.
Enforcement and Implementation
The Clinician

Photo © Robyn Garibaldi
How does EPA know about problems with a registered chemical?

Reports from Clinicians

Surveillance data

Poison Control Data

- State systems
- NIOSH SENSOR system
- Both dependent on clinician reporting
- Workers Compensation
- Clinician reports
How many states require pesticide reporting?
30 states require pesticide exposure to be reported
MCN’s survey of 101 clinicians, found that 50% did not know the pesticide reporting requirement in their state.
Find out more
Report Exposure: Department of Human Services, Pesticide Exposure Safety and Tracking Program

Phone: 971-673-0977

Pesticide Reporting Requirements

Required to Report: Yes

What to Report: Any Pesticide-Related Exposure
Timeframe to Report Injury or Exposure: 24 Hours

Who is Required to Report: Physicians, Hospitals, Laboratories, Other health professionals.

SENSOR partnership with NIOSH:


Additional Info:

You may fax applicable medical records to the Pesticide Exposure Safety and Tracking Program at 971-673-0979. Please visit the Oregon PEST Information for Health Providers website for more information.

WPS Enforcement

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