

## Pesticides: Medical Emergency Drill

### Demonstration

Describe your procedures for obtaining emergency assistance.

**Prep Time:** About a half-hour.

**Works Well With:** Groups of about 8 to 12 employees.

**Needed Materials:** Pesticide label information, safety poster including emergency information, personal protective equipment (PPE), clean tools/equipment/props for the demonstration, emergency eyeflushing equipment, decontamination equipment, phones or radios to use to call for medical assistance.

**Suggestion:** Use a drill to make sure your workers and handlers know what to do in case exposure to pesticides causes a medical emergency.

Start by asking for a volunteer to be the victim during the drill.

Then describe what the employee was doing when he or she was overexposed to the pesticide. Make the scenario as realistic as possible. For your example, use information on a pesticide that your workers and handlers would typically be exposed to. Have clean equipment available for the volunteer to use while he or she mimics the job's duties.

Have the volunteer put on all the the PPE that would be necessary for the job described in your scenario. Refer to the information on the pesticide's label, and make sure everyone in the group understands how the PPE is selected and used.

When the volunteer is ready, have him or her mimic the work activities in your scenario. It would be best to hold the drill on the grounds where your trainees usually work. Tell the group how the victim was overexposed to the pesticide. The volunteer should mimic the event (without risking actual injury, of course).



Using information from the pesticide's label, describe the signs and symptoms that the victim would experience after being overexposed. Ask the group for advice on what the victim should do next.

You can use this drill to demonstrate the use of eyeflushing equipment and/or decontamination equipment as an initial first aid response. Refer to the pesticide's label information for any other first aid information that your workers and handlers need to be aware of.

Point out the posted emergency information. The emergency information must include the name, telephone number, and address of the nearest emergency medical facility. Let the group know the procedures they are to follow to get medical attention. They should know who to notify about the emergency, how to contact this person, how to get first aid for the victim, and how to arrange for transportation of the victim.

Make the drill as realistic as you can, and get input from the group on how they would handle the situation.

As part of the drill, go over the emergency information that is to be promptly provided, upon request, to the worker or handler or to treating medical personnel:

- Product name, EPA registration number, and active ingredients for any product(s) to which the person may have been exposed.
- Antidote, first aid, statement of practical treatment and other medical or emergency information from the product labeling.
- Description of the way the pesticide was being used.
- Circumstances of the worker's or handler's exposure to the pesticide.

Take time out during the drill to ask the group if they have any questions and to summarize the information you want them to remember.

