

Protection of Other People

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Protection of Other People

People and animals may be poisoned, and plants damaged by misuse of pesticides and by failure to take proper precautions for their handling and custody. More people who do not handle pesticides in their work are poisoned through avoidable mishaps than workers handling the pesticides.

Everyone who handles pesticides has a duty to ensure that no other person or animals is affected by the pesticides, and that adverse environmental effects are avoided as much as possible.

Examples:

1. Large outbreaks of poisoning have been caused by the accidental contamination of food with pesticides, usually during transportation. The foods concerned are usually flour, rice and sugar as these are carried in sacks.
2. Children have been affected when they have played with discarded containers, and others have been poisoned by pesticides in unlabeled containers mistaking it for another product.

Supplementary points:

- It has to be remembered that while workers with pesticides are adults, and are usually healthy, the community consists also of the very young, the very old and the sick. All these groups are more likely to be affected by doses of pesticide that would have much less effect on a healthy adult worker. It is also important that exposure of pregnant women to any toxic chemical should be avoided as much as possible.

Protection of Other People During Transportation of Pesticides

As pesticides are often hazardous chemicals, their transport requires careful management in order to minimise risk. Clearly the larger the quantity of pesticide transported, the greater the potential hazard.



Pesticides must never be carried in the same loading space with foodstuffs



If loading of pesticides together with passengers or livestock is unavoidable, then the pesticides must be effectively separated from passengers or livestock.



Load and unload pesticide packages with care. Never place them under other heavy items, which may crush them, nor allow them to drop from a height.



Packages which are damaged, severely corroded or which show evidence of leakage must never be loaded.

If the container should leak, nearby food can be contaminated by the pesticide. Liquid formulations are more hazardous if they leak as foodstuffs may absorb the liquid. **Worse, the food may NOT appear to be contaminated.**

Supplementary points:

- In many countries, the transportation of pesticides is subject to laws and regulations. Their purpose is to make such operations as safe as possible, and to deal effectively with accidents when they occur.
- Even if pesticides have been carried correctly without any food in the vehicle on one day, the same vehicle may carry food on the following day.
- Therefore, it is very important to examine the vehicle after unloading for any evidence of leakage. If a container has leaked, the vehicle must be decontaminated immediately.

Dealing with Spillage

Spillage must not occur at all and should be considered as an accident. If spillages or leaks occur during transport, deal with it safely by doing the following:

- Keep people and animals away



- Do not smoke or use naked lights near the spillage



- Separate damaged packages from other goods and place them on bare ground, away from dwellings and water supplies



- Use soil or sawdust to soak up any spillage

- Wash contaminated parts of vehicle with water



- Collect contaminated waste for safe disposal. Always wear protective clothing during clean-up



If a person gets contaminated,

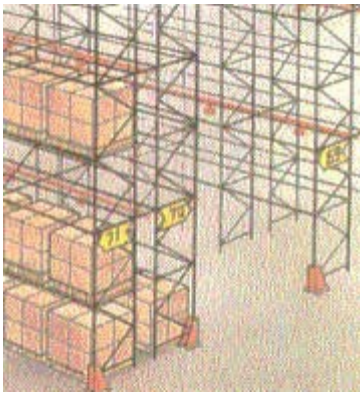
- Remove contaminated clothing immediately.
- If the product has come into contact with the eyes, rinse immediately with clean water and keep on rinsing for up to 10 minutes.
- After skin contact, wash immediately with soap and plenty of water. In the event of major contamination or if there is any pain or discomfort, contact a doctor.
- If the product has been swallowed or inhaled, seek medical advice immediately.



If any foodstuffs get contaminated, bury them deeply in a hole in the ground, or burn them if this is safe and can be done easily. (Note: This is probably the best advice for local situations).

Contaminated foodstuffs must never be eaten or fed to animals. This could be fatal.

Proper Storage of Pesticides in Warehouses



Large quantities of pesticides must be stored in a secure warehouse, in their own well-ventilated room or compartment.

The area in which they are stored should be marked with 'DANGER', 'NO ENTRY', and 'NO SMOKING' signs.

Drums should be placed so that their labels are clearly visible. All drums or packages should be clearly marked with the date received into store so that they can be used in strict rotation.



Even under optimum storage conditions, some products may spoil after a period of time. Drums in store more than two years should not be used until their contents have been tested for quality.

Supplementary points:

- All pesticide storage areas must be securely fenced to prevent unauthorised access. All doors and gates should be locked or padlocked.
- Floors of pesticide warehouses should never be dry swept. Damp sawdust or industrial vacuum cleaners should be used.

Proper Storage of Pesticides on the Farm or in the Home

Plan purchases carefully, in order to reduce storage time and to avoid surpluses.



Unused pesticides should be kept in locked cupboard, but not in the same cupboard with food, animal feed or medicine. Never store pesticides in living quarters.



Always keep pesticides in their original containers. No pesticides should be stored except in properly labeled containers. Original packings should be used whenever possible.



Keep pesticides and pesticide containers out of the reach of children

Do not use pesticides in any way other than as described on the label.

Supplementary points:

- If a child or adult eats or drinks a pesticide, the person responsible for treatment will need to know the name of the pesticide. Do not destroy the package. Save it and give it to the person concerned.

Re-Entry Periods (Exclusion from Sprayed Crops)

After application of pesticides, no unprotected person should enter a sprayed area until there is no risk that they might come into contact with the pesticide.

For areas dusted or sprayed with a liquid formulation of slight hazard, this is until the pesticide has dried on the crop.

For pesticide formulations of higher hazard, consult the product label to find out if this period needs to be lengthened.

For dusted area, consult the label.

If a period of time is not found on the label, it is a sensible precaution to always wait at least 24 hours after the last application.

Supplementary points:

- Where applicable, the product label will specify the period which must elapse between the last treatment and harvesting of the crop –

withholding period. This period must be strictly observed, in order to ensure that pesticide residues on the crop are within acceptable levels. This period is widely called as the pre-harvesting interval.