



COLORADO ENVIRONMENTAL PESTICIDE EDUCATION PROGRAM

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FEDERAL WORKER PROTECTION STANDARD

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This fact sheet defines the emergency medical assistance requirements of the Worker Protection Standard (WPS).

This fact sheet was revised as part of the Comprehensive Worker Protection Standard Awareness Project for Colorado.

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Federal Worker Protection Standard Emergency Medical Assistance

The [Worker Protection Standard](#) (WPS) was revised and expanded in 1992 by the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA). This regulation applies where pesticides are used in production of agricultural plants for commercial or research purposes on farms, forests, nurseries, greenhouses, and related structures. It covers pesticide applicators, mixer/loaders, disposers of pesticide containers, and those who may be exposed to a pesticide residue on the job. Both general-use and restricted-use pesticides are covered by WPS.

The regulations are exposure reduction measures that reduce the risk of pesticide poisonings and injuries among agricultural workers and pesticide handlers.

Employer Responsibilities

When there is a possibility that a handler or worker has been poisoned or injured by a pesticide, an employer must promptly provide transportation to an appropriate medical facility. The employer is responsible for providing transportation, which includes paying when there is a charge for transportation.



Additionally, the employer must provide to the victim and medical personnel the following information:

- describe how the pesticide was being used
- describe how the individual became exposed to the pesticide
- product name
- EPA Registration #
- active ingredient
- all first aid & medical information from label

The product name, active ingredient and EPA Registration number must already be recorded in the pesticide application list at the Central Location (see Pesticide Fact Sheet [Federal Worker Protection Standard Information at a Central Location](#)).

Additionally the name, address and phone number of the nearest emergency medical facility must also be legibly posted at the Central Location. To learn more about pesticide labels and where to find the required medical information including first aid (see Pesticide Fact Sheet [The Pesticide Label](#)).

Disclaimer: The Worker Protection Standard is a very complex regulation that will require considerable study. This fact sheet is

just an introduction and should not be used as a final interpretation. Refer to the complete WPS regulations in the [Code of Federal Register 40 Part 170](#).

References and Resources

EPA's Agriculture Compliance Center. June 2005. www.epa.gov/agriculture

The Worker Protection Standard for Agricultural Pesticides - How to Comply, What Employers Need to Know. July 1993. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA 735-B-93-001, Washington, D.C.

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