

IF YOU
HAVE
SYMPTOMS...

WHAT SHOULD
YOU DO?

WHAT SHOULD
YOU LOOK
FOR?

WHO IS AT RISK?

WHY SEEK MEDICAL
ATTENTION?



Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
California Environmental Protection Agency

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**A 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)

What should you do?

- **Call 911** for emergencies or serious illnesses
- Have someone take you to a doctor or hospital or call the **California Poison Control System at 1-800-411-8080**
- Locate the pesticide **label on the container, Safety Data Sheet** (SDS, formerly MSDS) or name of pesticide, if possible, to inform responders
- Remove any pesticides from your skin by **removing contaminated clothing and showering**
- 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, vomiting, diarrhea

Who is at risk?

- **Workers who mix, load, apply, handle pesticides or clean pesticide equipment or involved in pesticide production or reformulation.**
- **Workers 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 pesticide drift**

Why seek medical attention?

- Health-care providers can prescribe effective treatments that reduce or even reverse the harmful effects of the pesticides
- 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**