

Before Spraying

Emergency Procedures



Accidents can and do happen, but good planning can reduce their frequency and ensure appropriate and rapid steps are taken to deal with any incident promptly and correctly. All staff should be familiar with the emergency procedures and trained in how to handle potential incidents.

General

- Prepare an **Emergency Plan**. Include procedures to handle pesticide emergencies. The plan should include a site map with the location oil tanks, gas cylinders, any chemicals (eg pesticides and fertilisers), water courses and drains;
- Explain the plan and procedures to your staff. Use training and rehearsals to ensure staff understand and to check that the procedures work;
- Use the Emergency Information Sheet in this guide to keep an up-to-date list of addresses and telephone numbers of key emergency contacts (e.g. doctor, vet, local environment agency office, police etc);
- Keep copies of the Emergency Information Sheet and associated plans at key locations: e.g. spray store, filling area, tractor or vehicle cab, office. Make sure your staff know where this information is kept;
- Review plans regularly and especially after any emergency or incident;
- Keep a detailed written record of every incident and identify and implement any necessary improvements to procedures;
- Clearly signpost your premises to assist emergency services;
- Ensure emergency and safety equipment is properly maintained and regularly checked.

Dealing with suspected poisoning

Yourself (if you are unwell during or after spraying)

- Stop work;
- Tell someone;
- Seek medical help immediately. Call a doctor, NHS Direct **0845 4647** or get someone to take you to hospital;
- Take the product label(s) and any safety data sheet(s) with you;

First Aid

- If breathing stops, call 999 or 112 first
- Then start artificial respiration
- If the heart stops, start CPR (chest compressions)

Someone else

- Stop the casualty working and call for medical help immediately;
- If casualty is conscious and mobile, take them away from the work area into shelter and then keep them warm and at rest until help arrives;
- If casualty is unconscious or not mobile, take suitable precautions to prevent contaminating yourself and then move the casualty away to shelter. Check the airway is clear, to do this make sure the casualty is lying on their back, tilt the head well back and raise the jaw. Place casualty in the recovery position. DO NOT attempt to induce vomiting but retain a sample of any vomit and give to paramedics for analysis;
- While waiting for help, remove any contaminated clothing from the casualty without contaminating yourself. Make sure the casualty keeps warm;
- Put contaminated clothes aside (ideally in a plastic bag) for later disposal;
- Provide the doctor or the hospital with a copy of the product label(s). If you can't do this, give them the name and/or the active ingredients of the product;
- Inform the HSE.

All pesticide labels carry emergency numbers

Dealing with personal contamination

- Carefully remove any contaminated clothing (not necessarily just protective clothing) immediately;
- Wash contaminated skin and hair thoroughly with clean water;
- If eyes are contaminated, flush with clean running water for at least 15 minutes and cover with sterile or a clean non-fluffy pad;
- Seek medical help as soon as possible. Take the product label and any safety data sheet and give them to the doctor or hospital.

112 or 999

112 is the European wide standard emergency number. In the UK it works in parallel with 999; calls from mobiles are free and may even be picked up when there is "no signal"; the approximate mobile location may also be traced.

Bystanders

- Risks to bystanders and local residents should be considered as part of your COSHH Assessment and your Emergency Plan;
- Consider leaving an unsprayed strip adjacent to the property of schools and hospitals and respond to reasonable requests from residents;
- If anyone thinks they have been affected by pesticides you are using, advise them to seek medical advice immediately - contact

🔥 Dealing with Fire

- Raise the alarm;
- Call the fire brigade, telling them that pesticides are involved;
- Do not put yourself in danger or breath in any fumes; only tackle a fire if it is safe to do so. Use dry powder extinguishers only;
- Provide the site plan. This should show the location of any gas cylinders and chemicals or substances that may be highly flammable, explosive, corrosive, poisonous, oxidising agents, or give off noxious fumes as well as drains and watercourses;
- For fires in involving pesticide stores, give the Fire Officer a full list of products and active ingredients involved. If phosphine generating products are involved, identify their location within the store.

🔥 Spillages and Leaks

- Get other people and animals away from affected area;
- Take steps to contain the spill;
- Let other people know, such as the Environment Agency/SEPA/Northern Ireland Environment Agency, the local Pollution Prevention Officer, the police, neighbours and so on. Tell them what has been spilt, where and how much.

🔥 Containing the Spill

- Keep a spillage kit to hand including absorbent material (cat litter or sand not sawdust) brush, shovel, plastic bags and ties;
- Put on personal protective equipment (protective gloves, rubber boots, coverall and face shield as a minimum);
- Block drains if the spill might reach them;
- **Liquids:** firstly put absorbent material round the spill, and then on it;
- **Solids:** sweep up gently (do not raise dust), sprinkle absorbent material and sweep carefully again;
- Collect all sweepings and any other contaminated materials (e.g. brushes, clothes, towels) in a strong, impermeable, marked container and dispose of using a licensed waste disposal contractor;
- Have a copy of the product label to give to any emergency services.

🔥 Leaking Containers

- Either pour the contents of the damaged container into a sound one that originally held the same product or put the entire leaking container into an impermeable larger one and label it with the product name. Fix the product label (if usable and uncontaminated) to the container;
- If the product can be used, do so at the earliest opportunity taking care to avoid further spillage or contamination;
- If not usable, dispose of using a licensed waste disposal contractor.

🔥 Road Accidents

- Keep other people and animals away from the area;
- Ring the police, fire brigade and the national environment agency. Tell them that pesticides are involved in the accident;
- If you can do so safely, attempt to contain any spill to prevent it from reaching drains or watercourses;
- Provide emergency services with product labels and safety data sheets.

🔥 Suspected animal poisoning

- Get live animals away from the pesticide or the contaminated area. Take care to avoid personal contamination (wear protective clothing if necessary). Obtain specific information from the supplier's emergency number;
- Keep the animal in shelter and at rest;
- Contact a vet immediately and, where convenient, take the animal to the surgery;
- Give the product label and safety data sheet (or at least the name of the product and its active ingredients) to the vet;
- Avoid touching dead animals. Cover them until they can be removed or disposed of safely;
- If appropriate, report to the Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme (0800 321600), or for fish the local environment agency .

🔥 Dealing with theft

- Check stores regularly and notify management immediately if any products are missing;
- Contact police and provide a full list of products, active ingredients and quantities stolen.



The advice in this Guide has been prepared after consultation with the UK environment agencies, Health and Safety Executive and Pesticide Safety Directorate.

This Guide was produced by the Crop Protection Association as part of The Voluntary Initiative.

The Voluntary Initiative is a programme of measure agreed by Government to minimise the environmental impact of pesticides.

www.cropprotection.org.uk

www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk



Emergency Information Sheet

- ✗ **Never Put Yourself At Risk**
- ✓ **Raise Alarm**
- ✓ **Tell Others of Incident**
- ✓ **Ask for Appropriate Help**

National Helplines

Police/Fire/Ambulance **999 or 112**

NHS Direct **0845 4647**

Environment Agency Hotline **0800 80 70 60**
(UK wide for all environmental incidents)

Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme **0800 321 600**

Local Telephone Numbers:

Hospital w A&E _____

HSE _____

Doctor _____

Police _____

Electricity _____

Gas _____

Water _____

Countryside Watch _____

Waste Disposal _____

Local Authority _____

Environmental Health _____

Bee Liaison Officer (insecticides) _____

Location Details

Contact Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Map Ref Sheet No: _____

East: _____ North: _____

Locations (Mark these on your site plan)

Fire Extinguishers _____

First Aid Box _____

Washing facilities _____

Mains water supply _____

Surface/foul water drains/access points _____

Gas isolation point _____

Electricity isolation point _____

Action plans _____

Lists of hazardous materials _____

Pesticide store _____

Fertiliser store _____

Fuel tanks _____

Other hazardous substances _____

Emergency Call Basics

- **Call the right emergency service if in doubt**
Dial 999 or 112
- **Describe nature of incident (including remaining hazard).**
- **Explain your involvement**
- **Agree a suitable meeting point**
- **Have relevant pesticide labels and safety data sheets to hand**



This information sheet is based on a version first published by LEAF and Farmers Weekly



The Voluntary Initiative