



Pesticide Exposure Surveillance in Texas Program (PEST)

Environmental and Injury
Epidemiology and Toxicology Branch
Texas Department of State Health Services
www.dshs.state.tx.us/epitox/pesticides.htm

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Pesticide Exposure Surveillance in Texas

Reporting Acute Pesticide Exposure

- All health care providers, hospitals, clinics and lab directors are required by law to report work-related pesticide exposures to the Department of State Health Services (Texas Occupational Condition Reporting Act, Health and Safety Code, Chapter 81)
- Texas Poison Control Network (TCPN), state agencies, regional health departments, and individuals also report pesticide exposures to DSHS

The pesticide exposure report form can be downloaded from our web page.

www.dshs.state.tx.us/epitox/pesticides.htm



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Why Do Physicians Fail to Report Pesticide Exposure?

- Unaware of reporting law and how to report
- Non-specific illnesses make it difficult to make an accurate diagnosis
- Not thinking of pesticides or chemicals

Why Do Workers Fail to Report Pesticide Exposure?

- May not think they are sick enough to seek care
- Cannot afford health care
- Afraid of being fired if their employer finds out
- Not thinking of pesticides and chemicals



What Information Does DSHS Need?

- Exposed individual's name, address, phone number, birth date, race or ethnicity and diagnosis
- Lab results (e.g. cholinesterase tests)
- Occupation and employer information if exposure is work-related

How Are the Data and Information Used?

- Reported information is confidential
- Continual surveillance allows us to identify poisoning incidents, provide assistance, and make recommendations to prevent and control future exposures
- Data help us understand and describe the extent of pesticide poisoning in Texas

- Information is used to develop targeted education and prevention materials and to provide appropriate pesticide exposure prevention training

Occupations At-Risk for Pesticide and Chemical Exposure

- Ground pesticide applicators
- Nursery workers
- Farmers, poultry farmers and ranchers
- Harvesters or field workers
- Aerial applicators
- Exterminators
- Warehouse workers who handle pesticide
- Workers who work with arsenic- and creosote-treated wood
- Police and firefighters

Taking Occupational History

- What kind of work do you do?
¿Qué clase de trabajo hace usted?
- Are pesticides or chemicals being used at home or work?
¿Se usan pesticidas o productos químicos en su casa o en su trabajo?
- Do you get sick or dizzy after or while you are working?
¿Se siente usted enfermo o mareado mientras trabaja o después de terminar su trabajo?
- Do you feel more or less sick when you are at work?
¿Se siente usted más o menos enfermo cuando está trabajando?
- Have you been exposed to pesticides, chemicals or solvents before?
¿Ha sido usted expuesto en el pasado a pesticidas, productos químicos o solventes?

Symptoms Associated with a Pesticide Exposure



- Gastrointestinal *Problemas gastrointestinales*
- Pinpoint pupils *Pupilas resaltadas*
- Watery eyes *Ojos llorosos*
- Runny nose *Gotea la nariz, moquear*
- Excessive salivation *Secreción excesiva de saliva*
- Excessive sweating *Sudor excesivo, Traspiración excesiva*
- Tingling/Numbness *Cosquilleo/Sensación adormecedora*
- Dizziness *Mareo, vértigo*
- Dermatological irritation *Irritación dermatológica*
- Respiratory *Problemas respiratorios*

