



Worker Protection Coordinator  
Bureau of Compliance Monitoring  
UF/IFAS Pesticide Information Office  
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## GUIDELINES FOR TRAINERS

### Summary of Worker Protection Standards (WPS) Handler & Worker Training Requirements

#### **WPS Pesticide Safety Training**

Agricultural workers must be trained within the first 5 days of employment.

Handlers must be trained before any handling activity is performed.

Workers and handlers must each be trained at least once every 5 years.

#### **Trainers must:**

- Use written and/or audiovisual materials;
- Use EPA approved materials for training;
- Conduct the training orally or with written or audiovisual materials in a manner the employees can understand (using a translator if necessary) with an opportunity to answer questions; and,
- Meet one of the following criteria to perform training:
  - Currently be a certified applicator of Restricted Use Pesticides (RUPs); or
  - Currently be designated by a State, Federal or Tribal agency having jurisdiction, as a trainer of pesticide applicators; or
  - Have completed a pesticide safety Train-the-Trainer program conducted by a State, Federal or Tribal agency having jurisdiction.

## **WORKER TRAINING**

### **THE FOLLOWING MINIMUM INFORMATION MUST BE COVERED:**

- Where and in what form pesticides may be encountered during work activities.
- Hazards of pesticides resulting from toxicity and exposure, including acute effects chronic effects, delayed effects, and sensitization.
- Routes through which pesticides can enter the body.
- Signs and symptoms of common types of pesticide poisoning.
- Emergency first aid for pesticide injuries or poisonings.
- How to obtain emergency medical care.
- Routine and emergency decontamination procedures, including emergency eye-flushing techniques.
- Hazards from chemigation and drift.
- Hazards from pesticide residues on clothing.
- Warnings about taking pesticides or pesticide containers home.
- An explanation of the WPS requirements designed to protect workers: including application and entry restrictions, design of the warning sign, posting of warning signs, oral warnings, availability of specific information about applications, and protection against retaliatory acts.

## **HANDLER TRAINING**

### **THE FOLLOWING MINIMUM INFORMATION MUST BE COVERED:**

- Format and meaning of information contained on pesticide labels and in labeling, including safety information such as precautionary statements about human health hazards.
- Hazards of pesticides resulting from toxicity and exposure, including acute and chronic effects, delayed effects, and sensitization.
- Routes by which pesticides can enter the body.
- Signs and symptoms of common types of pesticide poisonings.
- How to obtain emergency medical care.
- Routine and emergency decontamination procedures.
- Need for and appropriate use of personal protective equipment.
- Prevention, recognition and first aid treatment of heat-related illness.
- Safety requirements for handling, transporting, storing and disposing of pesticides, including general procedures for spill cleanup.
- Environmental concerns such as drift, runoff and wildlife hazards.
- Warnings about taking pesticides or pesticide containers home.
- An explanation of WPS requirements that handler employers must follow for the protection of handlers and others: including prohibition against applying pesticides in a manner that will cause contact with workers or other persons, the requirement to use personal protective equipment, the provisions for training and decontamination, and the protection against retaliatory acts.

## **For more information contact:**

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## **To order WPS Support Materials contact:**

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