



Volume I

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Worker Safety Bulletin

A pesticide safety publication of the
GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
PESTICIDE CONTROL OFFICE

Agriculture Worker Safety



This bulletin has facts about pesticide safety. If you have any questions about the information in this bulletin you may contact the Pesticide Control Office for help at (520) 562-2234.

If pesticides are used where you work, your boss must make sure you are trained in pesticide safety.

Pesticides can hurt you if:

- They get on your skin
- They get in your eyes
- You breathe them
- You swallow them.

Skin exposure to pesticides (liquid or powder from plants) is the most common way that agricultural workers get sick from exposure to pesticides.

Here are ways you can protect yourself from pesticides.

Wear clothes that cover your skin. You should wear clean work clothes each day that will cover your skin:

- Long pants
- A long-sleeved shirt
- Shoes and socks.

If a pesticide gets on your clothes or skin, take your clothes off right away and wash your skin with lots of

soap and water. The faster you act, the less likely you are to get sick or be harmed.

Your employer must make soap, water, and paper towels available to you if the areas where you work have had pesticides applied in the last 30 days. Pesticides dry on crops as a powder- this powder is the residue. A residue can remain on a crop many days after spraying.

Wash your hands and face before you eat, drink, smoke, or chew gum or tobacco. Your hands and face may get pesticides on them. Wash your hands before using the toilet at work.

Stay out of areas where pesticides are being applied. If pesticides drift to where you are working, get out! It is against the law for anyone to apply pesticides in an area where you are working, or to let pesticides

drift onto you. If you see this sign, or ones like it, keep out! This sign means that pesticides are in the area.



You must have special training and protection to go into this area. Stay out of areas your boss tells you not to enter, even if no sign is posted.

Never take pesticides or pesticide containers home from work. They are not safe for use around the home.

Keep dirty work clothes away from non-work clothes and from the family laundry. Pesticides may get on your clothes at work. Wash your work clothes, including cotton gloves before using them again.

Contact information for Medical help is listed on or near a pesticide safety poster at your work. Make sure you know where this and the nearest phone are.

If you or someone you work with has possibly been exposed to pesticides, report it to the Pesticide Control Office at: (520)562-2234

Pesticide Handler Safety



Pesticides vary in the ways they control a pest. They can kill the pest, inhibit its growth, affect pest reproduction, or serve as a barrier to the pest. Unfortunately, pesticides can also hurt people, pets, other animals, and the environment if they are not used carefully and according to label directions.

By law, your employer must provide you with the information and equipment necessary to protect you from pesticides when you work in agricultural establishments, such as farms, forests, nurseries, and greenhouses. This law is called the Worker Protection Standard.

But your employer cannot do the whole job. You need to learn as much as you can about pesticides and how to protect yourself and others. The Worker Protection Standard requires that pesticide handlers receive training in the safe use of pesticides.

You are a pesticide handler if you:

- Apply pesticides
- Assist with pesticide applications
- Clean, repair, or maintain pesticide application equipment such as boom sprayers, backpack sprayers, or hoppers-that may contain pesticide residues
- Mix, load, or transfer pesticides into application equipment
- Dispose of pesticides or materials with pesticides on them, such as containers
- Perform tasks as a crop advisor during a pesticide application or a restricted-entry interval (REI).



During any of these activities, you could be exposed to a pesticide and become sick or injured. Therefore, it is important for you to receive training in how to:

- Deal with the health hazards associated with pesticide exposure
- Recognize signs and symptoms of pesticide exposure and heat-related illness
- Respond to emergencies involving pesticides (first aid, spill cleanup)
- Wear, use, and maintain personal protective equipment (for example, goggles, respirators, and gloves)
- Read and understand information on a pesticide label
- Safely transport, mix, load, store, apply, and dispose of pesticides
- Safely operate mixing, loading, application, and pesticide-transfer equipment.

The name, address, and telephone number of the nearest place to get emergency medical help must be posted at the place where you work.

Be sure you know ahead of time where this emergency information is located so that you can get help for yourself or others quickly in an emergency.

All pesticide labels have an emergency first aid section. Read it or have someone explain it to you before you handle the pesticide. You should know the emergency first aid procedures before you need to use them. If you do the wrong thing in an emergency, it could make you even sicker.

By law, your employer must provide you with soap, paper towels, and enough water to wash pesticides off your body. These cleaning materials must be kept near the area where you are working. **Do not use water from irrigation ditches and canals - it could have pesticides in it.**



If pesticide gets on your clothes or skin, take your clothes off right away and wash your skin with lots of soap and water. The faster you act, the less likely you are to get sick or be harmed.

If you are feeling sick when working with pesticides, have someone take you to the nearest medical facility immediately.



Emergency Medical Centers located near the Gila River Indian Community:

A) Ak-Chin Health Clinic

48203 West Farrell Road
Maricopa, AZ 85239
(520) 568-3881

E) Komatke Health Center

17487 S. Health Care Dr.
Laveen, AZ 85339
(520) 550-6000

B) Casa Grande Regional Medical Center

1800 E Florence Boulevard
Casa Grande, AZ 85222
(520) 381-6300

F) Maricopa Medical Center

2601 East Roosevelt Street
Phoenix, AZ 85008
(602) 344-5011

C) Chandler Regional Medical Center

475 South Dobson Road (Dobson & Frye)
Chandler, AZ 85224
(480) 728-3000

G) Phoenix Indian Medical Center

4212 North 16th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85016
(602) 263-1200

D) Huhukam Memorial Hospital

483 Seed Farm Rd
Sacaton, AZ 85247
(520) 562-3321
(602) 528-1350

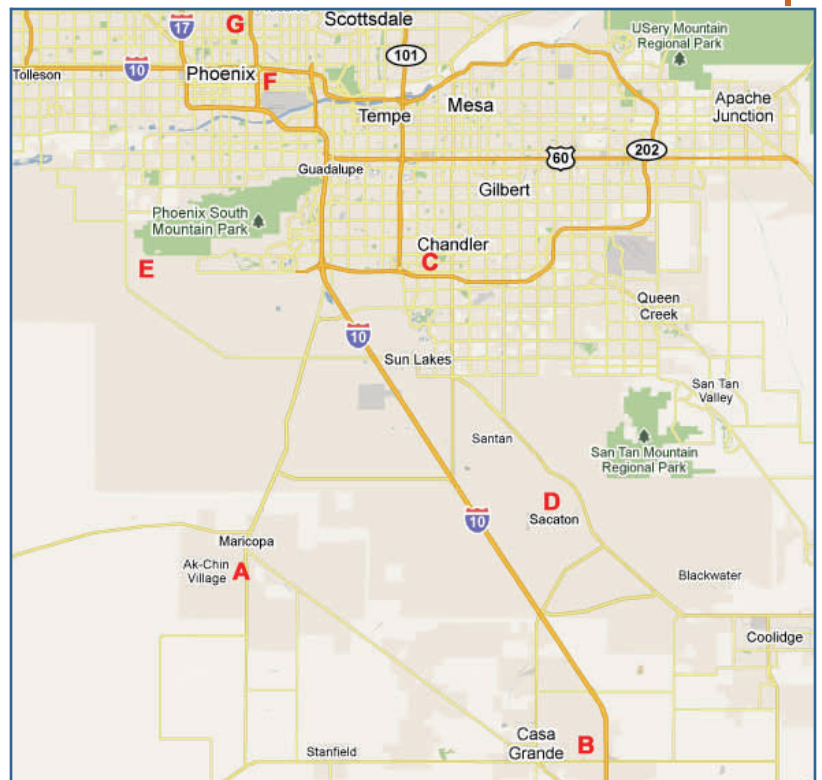


Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital, Sacaton

*"Know where
the closest
emergency
medical facility
is before an
accident
happens."*



Medical
information
posting



The Pesticide Control Office was established in 1982 to address pesticide related human health and environmental concerns within the Community.

The Office regulates pesticide activities through the Gila River Pesticide Ordinance, GR-04-96. The Office staff also conducts WPS trainings and other pesticide safety outreach to ensure that the Community is aware of pesticides that may be around them, symptoms of exposure, and how to avoid exposure to these products.

For questions regarding pesticides or to schedule a WPS training, please contact the Office staff.

**The Gila River Indian Community
Department of Environmental Quality
Pesticide Control Office**

Phone: 520-562-2234
Fax: 520-562-3198

Gila River Indian Community
Department of Environmental Quality
Pesticide Control Office
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