

How should I file a complaint?

The following is key information when filing a complaint with FDACS:

1. Name of complainant/victim
2. Nature of Incident
3. Pesticide(s) involved
4. Date and time of the incident
5. Name and address of physician
6. Address of the farm or company

Indicate if you wish to remain anonymous. If you think pesticides may have been used incorrectly and you would like an inspection conducted at the place where you work, you should call or write:

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Bureau of Compliance Monitoring
Case Referral Section
3125 Conner Blvd. Bldg. #8
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1650
Telephone: (386) 418-5523
Fax No.: (386) 418-5506

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If you were exposed to pesticides you should see your doctor and/or call to one of the following numbers:

- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
 - A. Case Referral Coordinator (386) 418-5523
 - B. 1-800-352-9832 (Spanish help) (1-800-FL AYUDA)
 - C. 1-800-435-7352 (1-800-HELP FLA)
- Poison Control 1-800-222-1222
- Florida Farm Worker Helpline 1-800-633-3572

For more information on pesticide safety and training, please contact us at:

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES AGRICULTURAL WORKER PESTICIDE SAFETY PROGRAM
(386) 418-5523

What should I do ...



if I've been exposed to PESTICIDES?

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Adam H. Putnam,
Commissioner

What are the signs and symptoms related to pesticide poisoning?



Pesticides are chemicals which, if not used properly, may be harmful to human health. One or more of the following symptoms may mean that a person has been

exposed to pesticides:

Protect yourself, it's your health!

- ◆ **Burning eyes, nose or skin**
- ◆ **Itching skin rash or blisters**
- ◆ **Headache**
- ◆ **Dizziness**
- ◆ **Weakness**
- ◆ **Excessive sweating**
- ◆ **Stomach ache or cramps**
- ◆ **Chest pain**

Employers must give the attending doctor the name, EPA Registration Number, and active ingredient of the pesticides that might have made a worker or handler sick. Also, upon request, employers are required to provide the employee or the doctor medical information from the product labeling such as antidote and first aid information, as well as the application method and how exposure occurred.

HOW TO PREVENT PESTICIDE POISONING?

- ☒ **The label is the Law!** Read and follow the label directions before use.
- ☒ Wear the personal protective equipment that is required on the label.
- ☒ Pesticides may get on your clothes at work. Wear clean clothes each day that cover your skin.
- ☒ Wash work clothes separately from other clothes in hot water and detergent.
- ☒ Wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts, socks and shoes or boots.
- ☒ After work each day, wash your whole body, including your hair, with plenty of water and soap.
- ☒ Wash your hands after work and before you eat, drink, smoke, chew gum, use tobacco, or go to the bathroom.
- ☒ Stay out of areas where pesticides are being applied.
- ☒ Never take pesticides or empty pesticide containers home from work.
- ☒ Never place pesticides in beverage containers or other vessels other than the properly labeled container.
- ☒ Keep children away from areas where pesticides might be present.
- ☒ Keep pesticides in a locked cabinet, away from children.

Workers Protection Standard

Your employer must:

1. Give you basic information about pesticides before you work in or near treated areas.
2. Be sure that you are trained in pesticide safety **BEFORE** you handle any pesticides.
3. Assure that workers are trained **before** they have more than 5 separate days of entry into areas treated with pesticides within the last 30 days, or a re-entry interval has been in effect.
4. Make sure that you receive medical help if you become ill from pesticides while working.
5. Provide workers and handlers with decontamination supplies such as water, soap and disposable towels, and a clean change of clothes for handlers at the work site.
6. Display information about pesticides applied in or near areas where you work at the central location.

Remember that:

- Employers cannot ask you to work in areas where pesticides are being applied.
- Employers cannot fire you for asking for information about Worker Protection Standard (WPS) or for filing a complaint related to WPS.

It's the Law!