

# MAFES Dawg Tracks



April 20, 2009



Pesticide Storage & Disposal

Some subjects warrant discussing and reviewing more than others. The use of pesticides is one that we need to keep in the middle of our "radar" all the time and for obvious reasons. There are many hazards that can derive from misuse or mishandling of pesticides. Spillages from opened, dropped or leaking container can cause problems. Misuse can be the result of missing labels from a container or failure to read the MSDS. Untrained personnel can cause a problem as well.

## **SPOT THE HAZARD -**

- Read the label and follow the instructions for the hazards, personal protective equipment, safe handling, transport, storage and disposal of each pesticide.
- All pesticides should be stored in a designated area, with proper lighting, ventilation and limited security.
- Pesticides should be segregated so that chemicals that are non-compatible aren't mixed with those that could react dangerously.

## **ASSESS THE RISK -**

- When assessing the hazard of a chemical, check the likelihood of an injury, harmful reaction or the possibility of a harmful incident happening.
- At the same time of assessing the chemical, check to see if the potential of an injury or harm is serious and imminent.
- If there is a potential for injury or harm, steps should be taken immediately to minimize or eliminate the risk of an injury.
- Consider a plan for mitigation of the threat of control of the possibility of a hazard.

## **MAKE THE CHANGES -**

Following are some ways of improving safety in the storage and disposal of pesticides:

- As mentioned above, store chemicals in a well-ventilated, well-lit and secure area.
- The floor should be constructed of impervious concrete and sealed around the perimeter walls at least 3 inches high. There should be no floor drain inside the area and the entrance should have a secondary containment provision, in case of a major spill.
- The shelving should be of an impervious material.
- The pesticide storage area should be located away from a flood zone area.
- Check the label for storage instructions and date each new container as it is received in order to track the age.
- Personal protective equipment should be stored in the close proximity of the pesticide room, but not inside it.
- A binder with all current MSDS should be stored in the close proximity of the area.

- A first aid kit and eyewash/emergency shower facility should be located in the close proximity of the area.
- A fire extinguisher, Type ABC (10 lb. minimum capacity is recommended) should be located within the close proximity of the storage area.
- Pesticides should be stored in the segregated area and fertilizers, animal feed and seeds should not be allowed to be mixed with the chemicals.
- A supply of clean up materials, such as absorbent pillows, oil-dri or clean sand should be stored close to the storage room in case of a spill or leak.
- Chemicals should be stored in the original containers. If for some reason the container is damaged and the chemical has to be transferred, make sure that it is moved to an approved container and the label is affixed to the new container.
- Keep incompatible chemicals separated, and all chemicals should be in a secondary containment trays.
- Proper signage at the entrance to the areas is necessary.
- A card with all the pertinent emergency numbers printed should be affixed at the entrance to the area or near the phone if there is one.

## **DISPOSAL -**

- Check the label and/or MSDS for proper methods of disposal of chemicals or their containers.
- Triple rinse containers to remove the chemical residue, remove the cap and puncture the base of the container. They can then be disposed of in regular garbage or hold in a collection point for recycling.
- When possible, large containers should be returned to the manufacturer or distributor. However, we know this is a rare possibility now.
- When in doubt about disposal, contact your local authorities for assistance.

## **TRANSPORT -**

- Avoid transporting pesticides with food, water, animal feed or other reactive hazardous substances.
- Secure hazardous substances on the vehicle so they can't move or fall.
- Keep a record of the chemicals that you are carrying. A copy of the MSDS should be in the folder.
- The suitable personal protective equipment, including respiratory equipment, if necessary, should be included in case of an emergency.

**CHANCE TAKERS ARE ACCIDENT  
~MAKERS~  
BE ALERT!  
ACCIDENTS HURT ~**