



# MAFES Dawg Tracks

April 15, 2013



*Work Safely  
with Pesticides*



Pesticide use in our MAFES system is necessary. It is used in a variety of different types of equipment and by almost everyone involved directly with agriculture. These individuals must attend classes for Pesticide Applicator Training and become certified. Even though pesticide applicators are licensed and certified, an annual “heads up” or review of safety tips involved will be advantageous.

### Pesticides can be harmful-

- ✓ Pesticides are an effective way to kill pests and diseases on plants and crops, which is their sole purpose.
- ✓ It's very important to take extra care when working with pesticides to avoid injury.
- ✓ Some types of pesticides are highly toxic. Exposure, even in small amounts of concentrated pesticides, can cause chemical burns, blindness, lung injury, or even **death**.

### How to work with Pesticides Safely-

#### Avoid:

- ✓ Getting pesticides on your skin.
- ✓ Swallowing pesticides or allowing them to touch your food.
- ✓ Getting pesticides in your eyes.
- ✓ Breathing pesticide vapors.

### How do you Avoid Pesticide Exposure-

- Be very careful when you are handling pesticides. Don't take any shortcuts or get in a big hurry.
- Read the label carefully before opening a container. The label will tell you what type of personal protective equipment to wear as well as what to do if you are accidentally exposed. Make sure that you read the label for all precautions. If the label is missing, report it to your supervisor or check the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for more information.
- Always wear the personal protective equipment that the label states. In some situations it may even be necessary to wear more, such as a respirator, protective eyewear, chemical gloves and boots, or an apron or coveralls.

### Safety Precautions to Observe with Pesticide use-

- Make sure that you clear the area of animals and unauthorized people.
- Mix and load the pesticides at a slow and steady pace.
- Obey all warning signs and verbal warnings.

- Wash the outside of your gloves before removing.
- Do not wash your hands and face before you eat, drink, smoke, chew gum, use the toilet or put on makeup.
- Never rub your eyes or touch your face or bare skin with contaminated gloves or clothing.
- Keep all your personal protective equipment clean and in good, working condition. Follow cleaning instructions from your supervisor's cleaning instructions. Always wash your contaminated clothing separate from other laundry.
- Store all your PPE in a location that will keep it sterile and clean so that it won't become contaminated before you will need it again.
- After using pesticides, you should take a shower and put on clean clothes. Wash your body and hair thoroughly.

### Safety Tips if You are Exposed-

- If you are accidentally splashed, sprayed, have trouble breathing, feel dizzy or have other sick symptoms from pesticide- stop working immediately and get help.
- Call for help and get out of the pesticide area, if you can. Have someone to notify your supervisor.
- If you get a pesticide spill or splash, immediately remove the contaminated clothing and PPE. Thoroughly wash your skin and hair with soap and water.
- If you get pesticide in your eyes, immediately wash them with a flush kit or let a gentle stream of water flow across them. Hold your eyelids open and rinse them for 15 minutes.
- Get medical help as soon as possible.

### DO-

- ~Keep personal clothing, gum, food, drinks and other belongs away from pesticides.
- ~Always use the proper PPE when handling pesticides.
- ~Avoid sitting in a chair or using the telephone when you are wearing contaminated clothing.

### DON'T-

- ~Take pesticides or empty pesticide containers home.
- ~Wear leather or canvas shoes or leather or fabric gloves when working with pesticides.
- ~Take off your gloves or other PPE while you are working with pesticides.

**~WEAR THE CORRECT PERSONAL  
PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT  
FOR THE JOB! ~**

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**ALERT TODAY<<<ALIVE TOMORROW!!**