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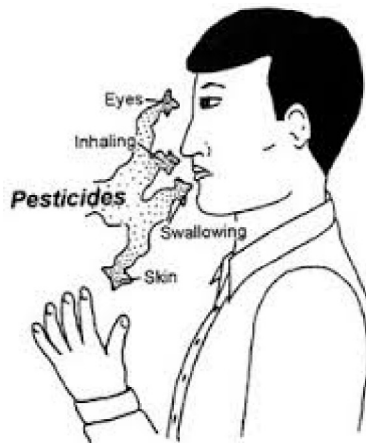
Monthly Safety Blast

Produced by the Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education

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Preventing Pesticide Exposure

Pesticide exposure can happen in many ways: touching treated surfaces or objects, eating or drinking food or water that contains pesticide residues, or breathing in spray as a pesticide is used.



Routes of Exposure

The most common route of exposure to pesticides is through the skin. This type of exposure often causes symptoms such as a rash. Your skin must come in direct contact with the pesticide product for this to occur. Exposure risk is high upon entering an area that has been recently treated with pesticides, especially for children and animals. Alternatively, after a (liquid) pesticide application dries, exposure and risk to pesticides diminishes.



Children and animals may have more significant health implications from pesticide exposures than adults because of their low body weight and behaviors such as crawling on the floor that may result in greater contact with treated surfaces.

The best approach to avoid pesticide exposure from an area that has been treated or drifted on is to **STAY OUT**. If you do enter a treated area and later find out that an application occurred, leave the area at once and remove your shoes and clothing. Wash affected areas with plenty of soap and warm water after possible exposure to skin. Wash potentially contaminated clothing separately in soap and hot water.

Treatment

If you, a member of your family or a coworker has come in contact with a pesticide, call the poison control center at 1-800-222-1222. If the exposed person is unconscious, not breathing, or having convulsions or seizures due to poison contact or ingestion, call 911 or your local emergency number immediately.

Resources

- US Department of Health and Human Services - Environmental Health and Toxicology, <http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/enviro/pesticides.html>.
- American Association of Poison Control Centers, <http://www.aapcc.org/DNN/>

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