

**For all poison emergencies anywhere, call the  
Nationwide Poison Center at 1.800.222.1222**

### CHEMTREC

CHEMTREC (Chemical Transportation Emergency Center) is a public service hotline that provides information and assistance for emergency incidents involving chemicals and hazardous materials. CHEMTREC deals only with chemical transport emergencies.

**Toll Free: 1.800.262.8200**  
**chemtrec.org**  
**Open 24 hours.**

### South Carolina DHEC Emergency Response Service (ERS)

The general public is invited to notify the ERS of any actual or possible release of pollutants into the environment of the State. The ERS responds verbally to all notifications from the public that involve the following types of incidents:

- dumping, spills and releases of hazardous substances, including but not limited to oil and petroleum products, waste oil, chemicals, hazardous waste, pesticides, and other pollutants,
- fish kills, and
- illegal open burning of items such as tires, plastic, and asbestos covered materials. Open burning of land clearing and/or yard debris DOES NOT constitute an emergency.

**Toll Free: 1.888.481.0125**  
**scdhec.net/eqc/lwm/html/reporting.html**  
**Open 24 hours.**

### Palmetto Poison Center

The Palmetto Poison Center serves as the Regional Poison Control center for the State of South Carolina and is the only poison control resource in the State. The Center is a cooperative effort of Palmetto Richland Memorial Hospital and the U.S.C. College of Pharmacy. The center is widely recognized and heavily utilized throughout the State.

**Toll Free: 1.800.922.1117**  
**pharm.sc.edu/pps/pps.htm**  
**Open 24 hours.**

### National Pesticide Information Center

The National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) is a cooperative effort between the EPA and Oregon State University. It is a toll-free telephone service that provides objective, science-based information on a variety of pesticide-related topics. It helps callers interpret and understand toxicology and environmental information about pesticides. NPIC can direct callers for pesticide incident investigation, emergencies involving humans or pets, safety practices, pesticide clean up and disposal, and laboratory analyses.

**Toll Free: 1.800.858.7378**  
**ace.orst.edu/info/nptn/index.html**  
**Open 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Pacific time.**  
**(Excluding holidays.)**

### ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center

**Toll Free: 1.888.426.4435**  
**aspca.org/site/PageServer?pagename=pro\_apcc**  
**There is a \$55.00 consultation fee.**  
**Open 24 hours.**

# Pesticide Poisoning Prevention and Emergency Contact Information

## A Guide for Pesticide Applicators and Homeowners

Department of Pesticide Regulation  
511 Westinghouse Road  
Pendleton, SC 29670

864.646.2150  
864.646.2179 (fax)

**CLEMSON**  
UNIVERSITY



**Prevent Pesticide Poisoning!**

*Follow the label and use  
common sense!*

Please call your local  
responders at

**911**

for any emergency.

# For all poison emergencies anywhere, call the Nationwide Poison Control Center at

1.800.222.1222

Accidental pesticide poisonings account for many accidents—even deaths—every year. This pamphlet may help you save a life. Keep it handy for immediate reference!

The Palmetto Poison Center provides information and treatment advice in case of accidental poisoning.

If you believe that you or a fellow worker or family member have suffered an accidental poisoning, take the entire label of the pesticide involved to your physician. This way the physician will know the exact nature of the chemical.

If you plan to apply a pesticide, follow the label directions and wear the label-prescribed proper personal protective equipment. Restricted use products can only be bought and used by licensed individuals or under a licensed individual's supervision. Pesticides intended for use on crops cannot be used indoors in homes or other structures. Get medical help **immediately** if you think you have any symptoms of pesticide poisoning.

## What are the signs of pesticide poisoning?

Symptoms of pesticide poisoning include:

- headache
- cramping
- frothing of the mouth
- blurred vision
- convulsions
- tightness of chest
- coma
- excessive sweating
- death
- dizziness
- labored breathing
- nausea

## How can I protect myself from pesticide poisoning?

The best way to prevent pesticide poisoning is to educate yourself. Keep the following tips in mind:

- When applying pesticides yourself, **READ THE LABEL!** Pesticides have strict usage guidelines and are intended for very specific environments (e.g., cotton crops outdoors). Only use pesticides labeled for the site and the pest. Almost all pesticides require proper safety clothing and/or equipment for application. The minimum protective clothing is a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, and shoes with socks. Following label instructions will help ensure the safe use of pesticides.
- Practice proper hygiene after applying pesticides. Remove clothing that may have been exposed to pesticides and wash thoroughly. Wash and store these clothes separate from the family's clothing. Wash your hands and face after applying pesticides, especially before eating, drinking, smoking, chewing gum or tobacco, or using the toilet.
- Never accept pesticides that are not the manufacturer's original package.
- NEVER allow someone to apply pesticides in your home before checking to see that he or she is properly licensed. Follow your intuition! This information, as well as the enforcement histories of properly licensed South Carolina applicators, can be obtained from the Department of Pesticide Regulation at:

[regfocus.clemson.edu/dpr/greenbook/htm](http://regfocus.clemson.edu/dpr/greenbook/htm)

## What should I do if I suspect pesticide poisoning?

You should become familiar with general first aid procedures so that you will be prepared in case a suspected pesticide poisoning occurs. First, read the product label. It will provide you with first aid instructions specific to that product.

## General First Aid Instructions

- If a pesticide gets on your or someone else's skin or clothing, remove the affected clothing immediately. Thoroughly but gently wash the skin with mild soap and water.
- If a pesticide gets into someone's eye, hold the eyelid open and gently wash out the eye under clean running water for at least 15 minutes.
- If a pesticide is inhaled, get the victim to fresh air immediately. Loosen the victim's clothing.
- If the pesticide is swallowed, find the pesticide label and follow first aid instructions. Induce vomiting **ONLY** if it is specified in the label.
- Always remember that first aid is only an initial step and is not a substitute for professional medical help.

## Extra Security Considerations for Pesticide Storage

Due to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, DC, increased security is now a matter of concern for us and for the citizens that we serve. To enhance the security and safety of our citizens, it is recommended that you keep an up-to-date inventory of all equipment and stored pesticides. It is essential that spray equipment and control materials be stored and maintained in secure locations. These locations and facilities may have security or alarm systems to ensure safety and to prevent effectively against theft. Only authorized persons should be allowed access to any control equipment and materials. **KNOW who has access to these products.** Tell your local law enforcement authorities about your equipment and materials so they can help keep it under observation. If your equipment and/or materials are lost or stolen, report it at once to local law enforcement. Consistent attention to good basic security practices will go a long way toward preventing theft and a possible inappropriate use of pesticide equipment and materials. Your attention to these security tasks will enhance the safety of your community.