

PESTICIDE SAFETY

PREPARE FOR EMERGENCIES



Call a **POISON CONTROL CENTER** or **physician in ALL cases of suspected poisoning**. It is better to be too cautious than too late.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION is on the **BACK COVER** of this publication. During an emergency call, tell the physician the chemicals listed on the label, the EPA registration number, antidotes given on the label and other information about the accident that could aid in treatment. Be prepared! **READ** and **POST SAFETY RULES**. Refer to the Poison Control Center phone number on the back cover of this Guide. Fill in the phone number of your local ambulance service, doctor and hospital as well. Inform your doctor of the *Notes to Physicians* on labels of the pesticides you plan to use, and get his/her advice on whether antidotes should be kept on site.

ORGANOPHOSPHATE POISONING

The effects of organophosphate and carbamate poisoning are rapid. Poisoning must be recognized early for effective treatment. Early symptoms are usually a headache, feeling of weakness, blurred vision, excessive perspiration, and nausea. Abdominal cramps, vomiting, and excessive salivation may set in with, or without, diarrhea. The throat and chest will feel constricted, making breathing difficult. In mild poisoning, some of these symptoms may be absent. Heat stress causes symptoms similar to pesticide poisoning.



If breathing stops, artificial respiration is the most important first-aid. While waiting for medical help, give first-aid as indicated on the label. Never try to give anything by mouth to an unconscious person. Get the victim to a doctor as soon as possible. If you know which pesticide is involved, take the container along so the doctor can read the label. If this is impractical, remove the label and take it with you. Relabel the container as soon as possible.

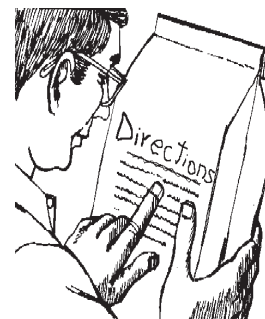
Cholinesterase is an enzyme necessary for the

proper function of the nervous system in humans and several other animals. Organophosphate pesticides (dimethoate, diazinon, azinphosmethyl, phosmet, chlorpyrifos and methidathion) and carbamate pesticides (carbaryl, methomyl, oxamyl), and many other natural and synthetic chemicals, interfere with the action of cholinesterase. An applicator who uses these types of pesticides regularly would be wise to have a cholinesterase activity test. This is a simple blood test that can be taken at many hospitals. The test finds the base line or “normal” level of cholinesterase in your blood. If pesticide poisoning is suspected, the cholinesterase level can be checked again at that time for confirmation. The best time to establish the base line is before the spray season. The important level is the total or true cholinesterase. Discuss this with your physician beforehand. Inform your doctor of the *Notes to Physicians* on labels of the pesticides you plan to use, and get their advice on whether antidotes should be kept on site.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY as a PESTICIDE USER

This guide summarizes information from product labels and other sources, but it **does not include** all of the information for which users are responsible.

Contact Extension for pesticide safety training materials, and your state Department of Agriculture for current pesticide regulations. A primary requirement is that no owner or lessee shall permit pesticide application in such a manner as to directly, or through drift, expose workers or other persons to spray or dust.



Pesticide product labels are the legal documents governing proper usage. Always read the label before using any pesticide. If you are unsure about any aspect of safe or proper use, contact the manufacturer or Cooperative Extension before use. If you are unsure about any aspect of safe or proper use, contact the dealer, manufacturer or Extension before use.

Wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) listed on the label when working with organophosphate insecticides or any concentrated sprays or dusts. At a minimum you should wear long sleeve shirt, long pants, shoes plus socks and chemical resistant gloves.