

# Reporting Pesticide Exposure

## For Healthcare Providers



### Reporting Acute Pesticide Exposure

- All health care providers, hospitals, clinics and lab directors are required by law to report work-related pesticide exposures to the Department of State Health Services (Texas Occupational Condition Reporting Act, Health and Safety Code, Chapter 81)
- Texas Poison Control Network (TPCN), state agencies, regional health departments, and individuals also report pesticide exposures to DSHS



The pesticide exposure report form can be downloaded from our web page.  
[www.dshs.state.tx.us/epitox/pestrptfrm.pdf](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/epitox/pestrptfrm.pdf)

### Pesticide Exposure Surveillance in Texas Program (PEST)

Environmental and Injury — Epidemiology and Toxicology Unit

Texas Department of State Health Services

[www.dshs.state.tx.us/epitox/pest.shtm](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/epitox/pest.shtm)

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## Why Do Physicians Fail to Report Pesticide Exposure?

- Unaware of reporting law and how to report
- Non-specific illnesses make it difficult to make an accurate diagnosis
- Not thinking of pesticides or chemicals

## Why Do Workers Fail to Report Pesticide Exposure?

- May not think they are sick enough to seek care
- Cannot afford health care
- Afraid of being fired if their employer finds out
- Not thinking of pesticides and chemicals

## What Information Does DSHS Need?

- Exposed individual's name, address, phone number, birth date, race or ethnicity and diagnosis
- Lab results (e.g. cholinesterase tests)
- Occupation and employer information if exposure is work-related

## How Are the Data and Information Used?

- Reported information is confidential
- Continual surveillance allows us to identify poisoning incidents, provide assistance, and make recommendations to prevent and control future exposures
- Data help us understand and describe the extent of pesticide poisoning in Texas
- Information is used to develop targeted education and prevention materials and to provide appropriate pesticide exposure prevention training

## Occupations At-Risk for Pesticide and Chemical Exposure

- Ground pesticide applicators
- Nursery workers
- Farmers, poultry farmers and ranchers
- Harvesters or field workers
- Aerial applicators
- Exterminators
- Warehouse workers who handle pesticide
- Workers who work with arsenic- and creosote-treated wood
- Police and firefighters



## Taking Occupational History

- What kind of work do you do?  
*¿Qué clase de trabajo hace usted?*
- Are pesticides or chemicals being used at home or work?  
*¿Se usan pesticidas o productos químicos en su casa o en su trabajo?*
- Do you get sick or dizzy after or while you are working?  
*¿Se siente usted enfermo o mareado mientras trabaja o después de terminar su trabajo?*
- Do you feel more or less sick when you are at work?  
*¿Se siente usted más o menos enfermo cuando está trabajando?*
- Have you been exposed to pesticides, chemicals or solvents before?  
*¿Ha sido usted expuesto en el pasado a pesticidas, productos químicos o solventes?*

## Symptoms Associated with a Pesticide Exposure

- Gastrointestinal *Problemas gastrointestinales*
- Pinpoint pupils *Pupilas resaltadas*
- Watery eyes *Ojos llorosos*
- Runny nose *Gotea la nariz, moquear*
- Excessive salivation *Secreción excesiva de saliva*
- Excessive sweating *Sudor excesivo, Traspiración excesiva*
- Tingling/Numbness *Cosquilleo/Sensación adormecedora*
- Dizziness *Mareo, vértigo*
- Dermatological irritation *Irritación dermatológica*
- Respiratory *Problemas respiratorios*

