



FARM WORKERS: KNOW YOUR RIGHTS ABOUT PESTICIDES

Farm workers have the right to a safe workplace. Farm workers also have the right to be free from retaliation for asking for a safe workplace.

If you are a field worker in Washington State, these are your rights:

- To **get training** about the hazards of working around dangerous pesticides
 - at the time of your job assignment **AND**
 - whenever a new health hazard related to a chemical exposure is introduced **AND**
 - at least every five years
- To **have a poster displayed** in a central spot with the names of the pesticides used in the last thirty days, when they were applied, **AND**
 - a poster with general pesticide safety information and the name and address of the nearest emergency medical facility **AND**
 - verbal information about the **most toxic pesticides**
- To **stay out of** a pesticide-treated area until the **restricted entry interval is up**. (The “REI” is the

period you must stay out of a treated area.)

- The period to stay out (REI) is **usually from four to 72 hours**. It depends on the pesticide used. It can be **much longer, such as two weeks** for Guthion.
- If they tell you to **go into the treated area** before the REI has passed, you have the right to use the proper protective equipment the pesticide label requires and to **follow other label restrictions** for entering the treated area. If you **do not receive these extra protections**, you **do not have to enter** fields covered by an REI.
- To have **access to decontamination areas**, with water, soap and towels, to wash, in case of accidental exposure to pesticides.
- To **be protected from pesticide drift** from your workplace or from a neighboring workplace.

- To **get medical attention** if you believe you have become ill from pesticide exposure.
 - Your employer must give you **free transportation** to a medical facility from the field or labor camp.
 - You have the **right to file a claim for Industrial Insurance** and have at least the first doctor visit paid. If L & I approves your claim, it could cover the costs of medical treatment and time missed from work due to illness (if more than three days). ***It is illegal to retaliate or discriminate against a worker for filing an Industrial Insurance claim.***
 - Your employer, if asked, must tell you or your representative the name of the pesticide(s) used.

If you are a pesticide handler (who sprays, mixes or loads pesticides), these are your rights:

- To **receive any personal protective equipment (PPE) the pesticide label requires**, such as gloves, protective clothing, or a respirator.
 - You have the right to get instruction on proper use.
 - You have the right to use personal protective equipment (PPE) that is in

good condition and kept clean by the employer. Equipment must be inspected every day of use for problems and repairs.

- To **receive a copy of the product label** for the pesticide you are spraying/mixing/loading. If you cannot read the label, you have the right to have it explained to you.
- To **not** spray if pesticides are coming around other people, or if the weather could cause drift that might damage or injure nearby people, land, desirable plants, or animals.
- To have **access to decontamination** areas supplied with clean water, eye flush dispensers, disposable towels, and clean clothing, such as coveralls.
- To **emergency medical help**. Your **employer must give you free transportation to a health care facility** if you believe you have become ill from exposure to pesticides.

Note: Workers who regularly handle certain pesticides that can poison the nervous system can have the right to blood tests to see if they have had too much exposure (Cholinesterase). Contact Legal Services for more information.

To report a violation of any rights regarding pesticide violations in employment, contact:

- The **Department of Labor and Industries** at **1-800-354-5423 OR**
- The **Washington Department of Health** at **1-888-586-9427 OR**

- The **Legal Services** offices listed below

Any worker who tries to follow pesticide rules or complains about pesticide exposure or other practices has the right to **NOT**

SUFFER RETALIATION or **DISCRIMINATION** for exercising their rights.

If you have a problem with pesticides or you have suffered retaliation or discrimination for exercising any rights regarding pesticides, you can contact any of the offices below for help:

<p>NORTHWEST JUSTICE PROJECT 311 N. 4th Street, Suite 201 Yakima, WA 98901 Tel: 1-888-201-1018 or (509) 574-4234</p>	<p>COLUMBIA LEGAL SERVICES 600 Larson Building 6 South Second Street Yakima, WA 98901 Tel: 1-800-631-1323 or (509) 575-5593</p>
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