



Safety Meeting Outline



SMO 05-0603

PESTICIDES & HERBICIDES: Hazardous Work Place & Household Products

By SeaBright Insurance Loss Control

Pesticides are chemical agents designed to kill unwanted pests such as insects, rats, etc. Herbicides are chemical agents designed to destroy or inhibit plant growth. They are both used in our home and in companies like ours. Both can be harmful, perhaps even fatal, to humans. Examples of potentially harmful products are weed killers, slug baits, flea powders, wood preservatives, disinfectants, insect repellants, mothballs, and pest strips.

Any substance whose sole use is to kill by poisoning has to be treated with extreme caution. Under certain conditions, pesticides and herbicides can be toxic to humans, some are more hazardous than others, and severe illness or even death may result when only a small amount of the chemical has been ingested. Other compounds, however, may not produce serious effects even after ingesting large quantities. The combination of dose, length of exposure, route of absorption and toxicity determine the impact on your health in each case. Health problems from pesticide or herbicide misuse include:

Oral Ingestion: Even a small dose--between seven drops and a teaspoon--of certain pesticides / herbicides such as aldrin, dieldrin, endrin, methyl parathion and parathion can be fatal.

Skin Damage: Many pesticides and herbicides cause skin irritations or rashes. They can also pass through the skin into the bloodstream and harm other organs.

Eye Injury: Pesticide and herbicide mists or splashes into the eye can cause severe damage or even blindness. Pesticides can also enter the eye from contaminated fingers ~ Soft-contact-lens wearers are particularly at risk because the same absorbency that keeps a contact "soft" and supple can also absorb pesticide chemicals from the air.

Lung Damage: Because pesticides / herbicides are usually applied as a spray, it is impossible to avoid breathing the mists. Your nose and throat may become irritated and pesticides can enter the bloodstream through the lungs.

Liver and Kidney Damage: Prolonged exposure to many pesticides and herbicides can damage the liver and kidney. These organs remove unwanted chemicals from the bloodstream. Some of the chemicals in pesticides cannot be filtered by either organ or and can end up destroying liver or kidney cells.

Nervous System Disorders: Inhaling pesticides and herbicides can cause headache, dizziness, nausea, severe vomiting, breathing difficulties, convulsions, coma and death – depending on the level of exposure.

Pesticides and Herbicides are hazardous chemicals to be included in your company's Hazard Communication Program. Understand the material safety data sheets and warning labels on the products, and always follow the manufacturer's recommendations in order to protect yourself and others from the harmful effects of pesticides and herbicides.

SAFETY MEETING AGENDA

DEPARTMENT/JOB SITE: _____ MEETING DATE: _____

1. **Open Meeting & Present safety topic:** _____
2. Read minutes from previous meeting.
3. **Persons present:**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

4. **Old Business** – Status of previous recommendations. Discuss pending old business if any.

5. **Accidents** – Discuss accidents and near misses that have occurred since the last meeting. Brief summary of accidents to date by number and type. Note any trends. Discuss corrective action taken, or needed. Concentrate on accident causes to make everyone more aware.

6. **Inspection Reports** – Report on findings and recommendations of any inspection reports made since last meeting.

7. **New Business** – Solicit employee suggestions. Discuss new procedures, changes to company safety policy, etc.

TIME MEETING STARTED: _____ TIME FINISHED: _____

MEETING CHAIRED BY: _____ TITLE: _____