

# Pesticide Safety in the Workplace



## Stockers

*A Customer* was reaching for Sevin dust insecticide on the shelf. Reaching high above head, Sevin dust spilled from a torn package on his face. He went to the hospital after experiencing shortness of breath, nausea and dizziness.

- Wear gloves when handling pesticides to avoid skin contact
- Use caution when opening boxes with box cutters—check for torn bags before stocking on shelves
- Always handle pesticide products with caution to prevent spills, leaks, or setting off aerosols.
- Always wash your hands after dealing with pesticides



## In case of a spill or leak

### Control the Spill

Immediate steps should be taken to control the spill. Don't expose yourself to the chemical. Use Protective equipment. Pesticides can enter the body through the skin, the eyes, the mouth, and the lungs.

### Contain the spill

Isolate the area and keep it from spreading. Liquids can be contained by using absorbent materials such as sand, clay or pet litter.

### Cleaning the spill

Consult your Risk Manager, company protocol, and/or chemical MSDS sheet for proper cleaning and disposal or hazardous substances.



## Cashiers

*A Store cashier* scanned a bag of Amdro granular insecticide that had some tears. A nearby fan blew the granules onto the cashier. Cashier went to the hospital for an itchy, painful, red rash on his hand. He missed a day of work.



- When scanning products, always be aware of product leaks or tears
- In case of a torn or leaking harmful product, contain the leak and remove yourself and customers from the area. Refer to your company's spill/clean-up protocol.

## Custodial

- Never mix or combine pesticides or cleaning products
- Protect hands and eyes from splashes; always ventilate properly
- Many disinfectants have the signal word **DANGER** on label

## If you are injured or feel ill

Notify your supervisor or store manager as soon as possible

In case of an emergency, call **the Poison Control Hotline at 1-800-222-1222.**

Identify the name of the pesticide and its chemical contents. If you have symptoms seek medical attention. Always read the label; it lists the ingredients, directions for use and first aid instructions in case of accidental poisoning.

Pesticide Exposure Surveillance in Texas Program (PEST)

Environmental and Injury

Epidemiology and Toxicology Branch

Texas Department of State Health Services

[www.dshs.state.tx.us/epitox/pesticides.htm](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/epitox/pesticides.htm)

1-800-588-1248

512-458-7269