Public’s Guide to Pesticide-Related Illness and Injury

IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS YOU BELIEVE WERE CAUSED BY EXPOSURE TO PESTICIDES (INCLUDING HOUSEHOLD DISINFECTANTS AND SANITIZERS):

♦ For emergencies or serious illness, call 911 for help;

♦ Have someone take you to a doctor or hospital or call the California Poison Control System at 1-800-222-1222;

♦ Have the pesticide label or container, MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet), or name of the pesticide with you;

♦ Remove any pesticides from your skin by removing contaminated clothing and showering; and

♦ Remind your health care provider to report the illness or injury to their local health department.

WHAT SHOULD YOU LOOK FOR IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE A PESTICIDE-RELATED ILLNESS OR INJURY?

♦ Mild symptoms: headache, rash, flu-like symptoms, eye irritation or redness.

♦ More severe symptoms: difficulty breathing, burns or blistering, shaking, tremors, blurred vision, eye injuries.

WHO IS AT RISK?

♦ Workers involved in mixing, loading, applying pesticides; pesticide production and reformulation. Field workers re-entering treated fields without proper protection.

♦ Persons improperly or frequently using pesticides at home.

♦ Children at home where pesticides are used or stored improperly. Persons exposed to off-site pesticide drift.

WHY SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION?

♦ Health care providers can provide more effective treatment if they know you work with pesticides or have used pesticides recently

♦ When providers report the illnesses, the information helps county and state officials identify problem pesticides and use violations and improve workplace safety.

CONFIDENTIALITY:

Your personal health information will remain confidential.

For additional pesticide information call the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment at (916) 327-7319 or the Department of Pesticide Regulation at (916) 445-4222.