



No. 4: Pesticide Emergency and Non-Emergency Information and Resources

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EMERGENCY RESOURCES

The Poison Center Hotline (1-800-222-1222) is a nation-wide, 24-hour, toll-free emergency number for professional advice on the treatment of poisonings from any cause, including pesticides. This number can also be called for non-emergency questions and advice. Poison centers have access to translation services for over 150 languages, as well as TTY/TDD services.

Callers dialing the number from the 50 states, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, US Virgin Islands, and Guam are automatically connected to the nearest Poison Control Center. **The Maryland Poison Center (www.mdpoison.com)** serves all of Maryland except Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. It is operated by the University of Maryland School Of Pharmacy in Baltimore and staffed by full-time pharmacists and nurses who specialize in poisonings. **The National Capital Poison Center (www.poison.org)**, serves Washington, DC and the surrounding

Maryland and Virginia counties, including Montgomery and Prince George's. It is affiliated with George Washington University Medical Center. Poison Control Center numbers are also listed inside the front cover of most telephone books.

When calling this resource, be prepared with the following information (if known):

- who was exposed
- the chemical and the amount involved
- the product container or label
- the time since the person was exposed
- how or why they were exposed
- any symptoms they have
- any treatment that has already been provided
- any pre-existing medical problems

ASPCA National Animal Poison Control Center (1-888-426-4435) operates 24 hours

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and charges a fee to the caller's credit card. The Center's telephones are answered by licensed veterinarians and board-certified veterinary toxicologists. The staff has access to data on pesticides, food additives, plant toxins, mold, drugs, and other chemicals.

When calling this resource, be prepared with the following information (if known):

- the animal's species, breed, age, sex, and weight
- the number of animals involved
- the animal's symptoms
- the chemical and the amount involved
- the time since the animal was exposed
- the product container or packaging for reference

If an animal is having seizures, losing consciousness, or having trouble breathing, the ASPCA recommends contacting a veterinarian or emergency clinic directly instead of calling the hotline.

More information can be found at www.aspca.org/Home/Pet-care/poison-control and www.aspca.org/about-us/animal-poison-control-center.aspx

Pet Poison Helpline (1-800-213-6680) is a 24-hour animal poison control center that serves the US and Canada. They charge a fee for each incident, but follow-up is included in the fee. The Helpline is staffed by board-certified veterinary specialists and toxicologists who can assist with poisonings of cats, dogs, birds, and a number of other large and small animals.

The Pet Poison Helpline's website (www.petpoisonhelpline.com) provides general pet safety information as well as a searchable list of poisons and their common effects. They are a division of SafetyCall International, and are affiliated with the

University of Minnesota Veterinary Medical Center.

CHEMTREC (Chemical Transportation Emergency Center): American Chemistry Council (1-800-424-9300) operates a 24-hour emergency-only hotline primarily for emergency responders and registered commercial shippers dealing with large spills and other hazardous material emergencies. Translators and interpretation services are available for over 180 languages. CHEMTREC can provide expert advice, information, and assistance on medical treatment, clean-up, and containment. They do not provide on-site response, but can connect callers with for-hire contactors. More information can be found at www.chemtrec.com.

National Response Center, operated by the US Coast Guard, provides a 24-hour toll-free number (**1-800-424-8802**) for reporting large oil and chemical spills that *immediately* endanger public health and the environment. Reports can also be made through their website (www.nrc.uscg.mil/nrchp.html). The Center is part of the federal government's National Response System, which helps coordinate response to major releases of hazardous chemicals into waterways and the environment.

MD Department of the Environment's Emergency Response Division (ERD) offers a hotline (**866-633-4686**) for reporting and receiving assistance with *immediate* environmental emergencies and hazardous material spills that endanger public health. Contact information for non-emergency concerns can be found on their website: http://www.mde.state.md.us/aboutmde/ContactUs/NumberstoKnow/Pages/contactus/numbers_to_know/index.aspx.

NON-EMERGENCY RESOURCES

The National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) (1-800-858-7378) operates a toll-free service 7 days a week from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. EST. Both health care providers and nonprofessionals may call this number or visit npic.orst.edu for non-emergency information on product safety, chemistry, protective equipment, health and environmental effects, clean-up, disposal, regulations, etc. Callers can also report problems, incidents, and human and animal exposures. Translation services for this number are available for over 170 languages. The website is available in English and Spanish.

NPIC is funded by EPA and operated by Oregon State University Department of Agricultural Chemistry in Corvallis, Oregon.

University of Maryland Extension Pesticide Education and Assessment Program (PEAP) offers information, training, and resources for pesticide applicators, health care providers, regulators and policy-makers, and the general public (pesticide.umd.edu). Publications such as the Pesticide Information Leaflets cover a variety of pesticide use and safety topics.

US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides a range of pesticide resources on their website (www.epa.gov/pesticides/health). Pesticide safety information covering public health, children, pets, workers, food, spills, and regulation is available. Some resources are also available in Spanish.

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