



Fact Sheet: Recognizing & Reporting Pesticide Exposure

A Quick Reference Guide for the Quechan Community

In Case of Emergency – ACT FAST

Situation	Action
Serious illness (unconscious, trouble breathing, chest pain)	✓ Call 911 immediately
Less serious symptoms (headache, nausea, dizziness, eye/skin irritation)	✓ Call Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222
Pesticide drift or spill is making people sick	✓ Call 911 , then move away from the area

- ⚠ **Do NOT** make a person vomit if they swallowed pesticide.
- ⚠ **Do NOT** perform mouth-to-mouth if unconscious (risk of contamination).
- ⚠ **Save evidence** – do not wash contaminated clothing if illegal use is suspected.

Key Contacts

Organization	Phone Number
Quechan Pesticide Control Office	928-977-2369
National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC)	1-800-858-7378
Regional Poison Control Center	1-800-222-1222

Common Symptoms of Pesticide Illness

Mild to moderate:

- Flu-like symptoms (tiredness, headache, dizziness)
- Blurred vision
- Stuffy nose, sore throat, coughing
- Eye, nose, or skin irritation
- Excessive sweating

- Vomiting, diarrhea, stomach cramps
- Nervousness, confusion, loss of coordination

Severe (call 911):

- Weakness or unable to walk
- Chest discomfort
- Pinpoint pupils
- Foaming at the mouth or nose
- Trouble breathing
- Loss of consciousness or coma

What is a Pesticide?

Any substance intended to control, destroy, repel, or attract a pest.

Examples: insecticides, herbicides, rodenticides, disinfectants, fungicides.

Key rule: *The label is the law.*

Using a pesticide in any way not described on the label is **illegal**.

Understanding Pesticide Labels

Signal Word	Meaning
DANGER	Most toxic (may include skull & crossbones)
WARNING	Moderately toxic – can cause skin/eye injury.
CAUTION	Least toxic – still handle carefully.

Pesticide Drift – What You Should Know

Drift = pesticide moving through the air away from the intended target.

- Can happen during or **days after** application
- Can be visible (spray, dust) or invisible (gas, odorless)
- **If you smell pesticides:** Move away immediately
- **If indoors:** Close windows/doors, turn off fans & swamp coolers
- **Do not touch residue** on vehicles, buildings, or plants – call the Quechan Pesticide Control Office

How to Report a Pesticide Problem

Call: Quechan Pesticide Control Office – **928-977-2369**
(Anonymous complaints accepted)

Information to gather (use the form in the guide):

- Date, time, location of incident
- What you saw, smelled, or felt
- Weather conditions (wind direction, etc.)
- Names of anyone affected and their symptoms
- Description of equipment or vehicle used

 Prompt reporting helps investigators collect evidence.

Risk Formula: Toxicity + Exposure = Risk

- **Toxicity** = how harmful a chemical is
- **Exposure** = how much, how long, and how (breathed, swallowed, skin contact)

Three routes of exposure:

1. Inhalation (breathing)
2. Oral (eating/drinking)
3. Dermal (skin or eyes)

Longer exposure = greater risk. Children, pregnant people, and those with chronic illnesses may be more sensitive.

Penalties for Illegal Pesticide Use

- Warning letters
 - Fines starting at **\$500 per violation**
 - Suspension or cancellation of pesticide license
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 Remember

- **Serious illness?** Call 911.
- **Questions or non-emergency?** Call Quechan Pesticide Control Office: **928-977-2369**
- **Save the container** – it helps doctors and inspectors.
- **You can report anonymously.**