



Stay Out of the Agricultural Fields: Protect Yourself from Pesticide Exposure



What are pesticides?

Pesticides are chemicals used to kill pests, such as insects, weeds, and rodents. They are used in agriculture, forestry, and other industries to protect crops and prevent the spread of disease.

Why are pesticides dangerous?

Pesticides can be dangerous to human health. They can cause a variety of health problems, including:

- **Skin irritation:** Pesticides can irritate the skin, causing rashes, itching, and burning.
- **Respiratory problems:** Pesticides can irritate the lungs and airways, causing coughing, wheezing, and difficulty breathing.
- **Neurological problems:** Pesticides can damage the nervous system, leading to problems with memory, concentration, and coordination.
- **Cancer:** Some pesticides have been linked to an increased risk of cancer.

How can you protect yourself from pesticide exposure?

- **Do not enter agricultural fields because those are treated with pesticides.**
- **Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after handling pesticides or working in areas where pesticides have been used.**

- **Wear protective clothing, such as gloves, masks, and eye protection, when handling pesticides.**
- **Store pesticides in a safe place, away from children and pets.**
- **Dispose of pesticides properly.**

What should you do if you think you have been exposed to pesticides?

- **Remove any contaminated clothing.**
- **Wash your skin thoroughly with soap and water.**
- **Seek medical attention immediately.**

Additional tips:

- **Read the label carefully before using any pesticide.**
- **Follow the directions on the label carefully.**
- **Use the least amount of pesticide possible.**
- **Do not mix pesticides with other chemicals.**
- **Do not apply pesticides in windy conditions.**

Following these tips can help protect yourself and your family from pesticide exposure.

Danger: Pesticide Application Keep Out. Report Incidents to the Quechan Pesticide Control Office at 928-977-2369.