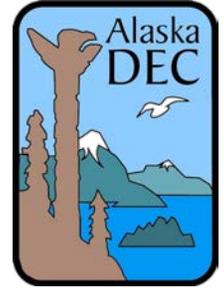


SPRING 2015



ON THE CIDE LINES

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
PESTICIDE CONTROL PROGRAM NEWSLETTER



- IN THIS ISSUE -

Respirator Fit
2014 Pesticide Inspections and Violations

Pesticide Storage
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Respirator Fit

Some pesticide labels require the use of respirators to safely handle or apply the product. The pesticide label will provide specific instructions about which type is required, and may even specify that a certified fit test is required.

Whether or not the label specifically requires it, a fit test is always a good idea. Respirators must fit tightly around the face to prevent contaminated air from entering around the edges.

Fit tests

A fit test should be conducted before using the respirator the first time, and should be performed annually to ensure proper protection. Qualitative fit testing involves checking to see if the wearer can detect a testing solution even when wearing the respirator. Qualitative fit test kits are available online and in stores where respirators are sold.

Some respirators require a quantitative fit test, where the amount of air leaking into the respirator is actually measured. Many medical centers and occupational health services can complete these brief tests.

Fit Checks

Users should also conduct a fit check each time they use a respirator. These can be done quickly and on the spot to let you know if the respirator still makes a good seal around the face.

Respirator Fit Continued

There are two quick methods to completing a fit check:

First, block the air inlet of the respirator with your hand and inhale deeply so that the face piece collapses slightly. Hold your breath for 10 seconds. If the face piece remains slightly collapsed for the 10-second period, there is a good seal and the respirator is working correctly.

Second, block the exhalation port with your hand and exhale into the respirator. If pressure builds up inside the respirator without leaking, there is a good seal and the respirator is working correctly.

- Cartridges should be changed as indicated on the instructions for that cartridge, or sooner if you notice increased resistance in breathing, or if you notice odors or taste while wearing your respirator.
- When storing, keep cartridges sealed up airtight. They lose effectiveness when exposed to open air.
- Respirators (and all PPE) should be kept in an area separate from pesticides and application equipment, which could contaminate them.
- Check your respirator often to make sure that rubber and elastic parts are flexible and show no cracks or other signs of deterioration.

2014 Pesticide Inspections and Violations

The DEC Pesticide Control Program found that over the past year, the majority of pesticide regulation violations found during use and records inspections were related to storage and record keeping requirements.

Remember, it is YOUR responsibility to know and follow pesticide regulations!

VIOLATIONS

#	Description	Regulation
3	Failure to post adequate warning signs on pesticide storage area.	18 AAC 90.615
3	Failure to keep adequate pesticide application records.	18 AAC 90.420
2	Failure to store all pesticides within adequate pesticide storage area.	18 AAC 90.615
2	Failure to wear all PPE required by label. (Compliance with label).	18 AAC 90.020
1	Failure to obtain certification prior to applying pesticides to a public place	18 AAC 90.300
1	Failure to post written notice prior to application at a public place.	18 AAC 90.630
2	Failure to provide agricultural worker training within timeline required by WPS (Compliance with label).	18 AAC 90.020

VIOLATIONS Continued

#	Description	Regulation
1	Failure to ensure qualified trainer provides agricultural worker training as required by WPS (Compliance with label).	18 AAC 90.020
1	Failure to provide required decontamination supplies required by WPS (Compliance with label).	18 AAC 90.020
1	Failure to dispose of rinsate appropriately.	18 AAC 90.020
1	Failure to ensure safety poster is maintained as required by WPS (Compliance with label)	18 AAC 90.020
1	Failure to ensure information about pesticide applications contains all required items as required by WPS (Compliance with label)	18 AAC 90.020

INSPECTIONS

#	Type	# Violations
4	Use (Agricultural)	10
5	Use (Non-Agricultural)	1
6	Records/Storage	8
1	RUP Dealer	0



Pesticide Storage

Winter is a good time to take a look through your pesticide storage area. Are there dusty old bottles and boxes full of pesticides that you will probably never use? Are there old containers with torn or faded labels? Are there spills, leaking packages, or just a lot of dust and grime? Are containers organized so that you can easily see what you have, and how much? A neat and tidy storage area will help prevent accidental exposures and being able to easily see all of your inventory can save you time and money.

- Collect and dispose of unsafe or unneeded products. Storing old, outdated, or unwanted products is not a good idea. These containers should be taken to a hazardous waste collection facility or landfill; contact them first to find out their specific requirements.
- You should also dispose of all products that do not have a clear, legible label on the package, including all use instructions.
- If any packages are broken, torn, or leaking, contain any leaks, then transfer the product into another container. Make sure to clearly label the new container.

Storage Continued

- Carefully remove and clean up any spilled or leaking product.
- Sort and organize your products so that you can tell at a glance how much of each type is available.
- Make sure the storage area can be secured and locked.
- Check the warning signs to make sure they are installed and legible. The Pesticide Control Program can send you new laminated signs upon request.



Contact Info – Certified Applicators

Please remember to update your contact information, including email address so that we can make sure you receive important information from us.

