

Responding to Pesticide Emergencies

You can follow some basic and immediate steps for most emergencies involving pesticides. Take the following steps when a spill, fire, or accident involving pesticides occurs. More detailed instructions are available from the state and federal agencies involved in emergency response. Contact the U.S. EPA Regional office, EPCRA Section, or the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE), both of which are listed on the Agency Contacts page.

- Remove people from the incident location to avoid further exposure to pesticides. Be careful not to expose yourself either.
- Human safety comes first. If humans have been exposed to highly toxic pesticides, take steps to reduce continued exposure by taking emergency first aid measures for pesticide exposure. Contact emergency medical personnel and advise them of the situation and the pesticide(s) involved.
- If the human exposure is not life threatening, take steps to stop or control the spill or fire. Immediate controls include shutting off valves, building simple soil berms to stop spreading liquids, or placing absorbent materials on liquids. Be aware that fires involving pesticides should be allowed to burn until trained responders with proper equipment can arrive.
- Once human exposure has been adequately addressed, the individual in control of the site should contact federal and state emergency response hotlines to report the incident. Federal law requires this reporting be done immediately, within 5 to 15 minutes of the incident.
- Once the spill, fire, or accident is over, you must follow up, in writing, on the outcome of the incident with the NDEE.

Emergency Contacts:

Poison Control Center.....	(800) 222-1222
Nebraska State Patrol.....	(800) 525-5555
NDEE State Emergency Response Commission (SERC).....	(402) 471-2186
National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC).....	(800) 858-7378

Use the spaces below to list your local emergency contacts. Make emergency contact information easily accessible to everyone working on your establishment.

Nearby hospital or urgent care clinic:

Facility name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____

Local fire department:

Fire Chief: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____