Understanding the Revised Worker Protection Standard

What Ag employers and others need to know
The WPS applies to...

- Farms
- Production forestry
- Sod farms
- Orchards
- Christmas trees
- Nurseries/greenhouses
- Rangeland where forage is harvested (growing plants)
- Organic pesticides
- Restricted-use pesticides
- General-use pesticides
- Herbicides
- Fungicides
- Insecticides
- etc.
When Does the WPS Apply?

- Agricultural establishments where ag pesticides are used
Who does the WPS protect?

- Workers (in treated area within 30 days of app)
- Weeding
- Harvesting
- Watering
- Handlers – mixing, loading or applying
Who is responsible for compliance? 

The agricultural employer

Not the certified applicator
Who is a ‘worker’?

- Any person, including a self-employed person, who is employed and performs activities directly relating to the production of agricultural plants on an agricultural establishment.

- A person is a “worker” under the WPS if they work in areas that were treated with a WPS-labeled pesticide within the last 30 days, or where a restricted-entry interval was in effect in the last 30 days.
Directly Related:

- Harvesting
- Thinning
- Hand-weeding
- Pest-scouting
- Pruning
- Planting
- Preparing sites/media for planting
- Carrying nursery stock
- Watering
Who is a ‘handler’?

- Mixing, loading, helping to apply, or applying pesticides
- Disposing of pesticides
- Handling open containers of pesticides
- Cleaning, adjusting, handling, or repairing equipment that may have pesticide residues
Who is a ‘handler’?

- Anyone who enters an enclosed space after it was treated and before ventilation criteria have been met
- Entering a treated area outdoors after application of a soil fumigant before aeration
- Performing tasks as a crop advisor during a pesticide application or REI
Does the WPS apply to workers in your farm stand?
Does WPS apply to employees who transport pesticides?
Who is responsible for compliance?

The agricultural employer

Not the certified applicator
Exempt from some portions

- **Owners and members of immediate family**
  - Spouse
  - Children
  - Stepchildren
  - Foster children
  - Grandparents
  - Grandchildren
  - In-laws
Exempt from which portions?

- Pesticide safety training
- Notice of applications
- Posting and SDS
- Emergency assistance
- Minimum age* (must be 18, a Private Applicator or Fully Certified to use Restricted Use Pesticides)

- Still must follow ALL label requirements
WPS in a nutshell

- Pesticide safety training for employees
- Pesticide safety, application, hazard info
- Notice about applications
- Respirator fit testing
- Decontamination supplies
- Emergency assistance
Pesticide safety training

- Workers must be trained before entering treated area
- Handlers must be trained before performing any handling task
- Trained yearly
- Employer must keep record of training
  - Two years
Who can conduct training?

- Certified pesticide applicators
  - Commercial or private applicators
- Graduates of Train the Trainer courses
- Designated trainers (extension educators)
What does training involve?

- Present with EPA approved materials
- Trainer present entire time
- No distractions
- New content (2018)
Safety, application & hazard info

- Must be displayed if app within 30 days and workers or handlers are present
- Information about applications
- Emergency information
- SDS (was MSDS)
- Pesticide safety poster
  - New content required 2018
PROTECT YOURSELF FROM PESTICIDES

IN AN EMERGENCY

If pesticides get on you, wash it off right away with soap and warm water.

Wear a hat or cap, a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, and shoes and socks to protect yourself from pesticides.

After work, shower or wash your body with soap and water, change into clean clothes.

Pesticides may be on plants and soil, in irrigation water, or drifting from nearby applications.

Los pesticidas pueden estar en las plantas o en el suelo, en el agua de riego, o arrastrados por el viento cuando se aplican cerca.

There are federal rules to protect workers. These rules require that your employer teach you in pesticide safety.

En los lugares donde se planten frutales o hortalizas, los empleadores deben enseñar a los trabajadores de cómo protegerse de los pesticidas.
Wash work clothes separately from other clothes before wearing them again.
Lave su ropa de trabajo separada de su otra ropa sucia antes de ponérsela nuevamente.

The nearest emergency medical facility (hospital) is:
El centro de emergencia médica (hospital) más cercano es:

Name
Nombre

Street
Calle

City
Ciudad

Telephone
Teléfono

For more information on pesticides call:
Para más información sobre pesticidas llame:
- 1-800-858-7378; or
- State Lead Agency or Authority:
  Agencia o autoridad estatal pertinente:
  Tel: (____)____

is poster, call GEMPLER’S, Inc. at 800-382-8473. Use Order No. P928 . . . price is $1.50 ea.
Application info

- Location and description of treated area
- Product name, EPA Reg.#, active ingredient(s)
- Restricted Entry Interval (REI)
- Description of treated area
- Time and date of application
  - Start and end times
- Keep records for two years
Notice about applications

- Verbally warn workers and post warning signs if required by the label
  - All danger poison products
- Otherwise post warning signs if the REI is >
  - 4 hours for enclosed space (greenhouse)
  - 48 hours for outdoor production
Respirator requirements

- When a respirator is required by the label employers must provide prior to use
  - Medical evaluation
  - Respirator training
  - Fit testing
- Keep records of above for two years
Decontamination supplies

- Within ¼ mile of worksite
- Water – 1 gallon per worker, 3 per handler
- If protective eyewear required for handlers
  - 1 pint immediately available
  - Extra 3 gallons for eye flush
- Plenty of soap and single use paper towels
- Change of clothes for handlers
Emergency assistance

- Transport **promptly** to medical facility
- **Promptly** provide to medical personnel
  - Product name, EPA Reg.#, active ingredients
  - How pesticide was being used
  - Circumstances of exposure
  - SDS
Help is available

Joe Becovitz – (765)494-1589—regulator
becovitz@purdue.edu

Fred Whitford – (765)494-1284—extension
fwhitford@purdue.edu

Resources:

https://pesticideresources.org/