

Personal Protective Equipment For Pesticide Applicators

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Pesticide label requirements, company policy, or your own judgment may result in use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during pesticide handling to minimize exposure. The overall goal is to reduce risk by minimizing the pesticide exposure factor from the handling of pesticides based on the general expression, $Risk = Hazard \times Exposure$. Handling includes mixing, loading, and applying pesticides and other work tasks in which concentrates or formulations are used. Basic worker protection standard (WPS) clothing includes long sleeved shirt, long pants, socks and shoes. These clothes are important protection against pesticide particles or liquids that may contact the skin, the most important route of exposure during normal work activities. Skin contact, inhalation, and incidental oral contact with pesticides are exposures with the potential for absorption. Risk is the likelihood of harm resulting from contact with a hazardous substance (pesticide) and the amount of exposure. Guidelines for the use of WPS clothing and PPE are intended to reduce the likelihood of exposure and as a result, reduce risk.