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|  | 4.17 Ag-Generated Pesticides  **General Information for HHW Programs** |

# *Note: This guidance document is for informational purposes only and outlines basic employer requirements. The MPCA makes no guarantee that this Standard Operating Procedure satisfies compliance obligations of its users. It is the responsibility of each Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program employer(s) to determine whether applicable requirements have been met.*

# 1. Introduction

Pesticides are used to kill or control unwanted organisms and can be toxic to humans and wildlife. Safe handling is essential, as exposure may cause nervous system damage and other negative long-term health effects.

* 1. This facility shall maintain a written training program covering the management of pesticide wastes relevant to job duties. The program must include function-specific training, safety protocols, regulatory guidance, and emergency procedures. The designated HHW staff person to ensure the guidelines outlined in this SOP have been met is [ ].
  2. Pesticides are classified as [Universal Wastes](https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw4-62.pdf). This Facility may accept pesticides from any sized agriculture (ag) generator; farm ag pesticides are often presented in larger quantities and are frequently more toxic so may present a greater health risk.

# 2. Safety and Health Precautions

2.1 Staff shall assess unknown or abandoned pesticide containers to determine whether they pose a threat to human health, safety, or the environment.

2.2 Use proper ergonomic techniques while handling pesticides. These materials are highly toxic and can enter the bloodstream through the skin or lungs. A strict Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) policy must be implemented. Pesticide ingestion may occur from eating, drinking, or smoking with contaminated hands, or from handling containers without proper PPE.

2.3 Inhalation of pesticide dust or vapors may occur when containers are opened or spilled. Avoid inhalation exposure using adequate ventilation in all processing areas.

2.4 Due to high toxicity, leaking pesticide containers must be handled with extreme caution. Immediately place leaking containers into secondary containment to prevent spills and reduce exposure.

2.5 Staff shall be trained to respond to small spills incidents which may present immediate health or safety risks. Only trained emergency response teams may respond to spills beyond the capabilities of facility staff.

2.6 Staff exposed to pesticides at or above permissible exposure limit (PEL) levels for 30 or more days per year must adhere to the County’s Medical Monitoring Program. It is the employer’s responsibility to establish and evaluate medical monitoring protocol.

# Properly Managing Pesticides

* 1. Pesticides may be solid, liquid, or gaseous.
* Solids may be diluted with oil, water, or a solvent.
* Liquids are typically solutions or suspensions of the active ingredient.
* Some pesticides are encapsulated in gelatin or plastic and contain both active and inactive ingredients.
* Aerosol pesticides deliver the active ingredient via a volatile solvent or other medium.
  1. Pesticides are classified by their:
* Target species (e.g., insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides)
* Physical form (solid, liquid, or gas)
* Chemical composition
  1. Carefully examine container integrity when accepting pesticides; older pesticides are often in leaking containers due to improper storage or age. Extra caution shall be taken while evaluating and handling compromised pesticide containers to avoid exposures, including:
* Ensure work areas are restricted from public access.
* Refer to the product label for specific health and safety guidance.
* Do not open containers or bulk pesticide contents.
* Presort and place wastes into secondary containment before the end of each workday.
* Do not place waste pesticides in facility product exchange or reuse areas.

# Partnering with MN Department of Agriculture

* 1. Non-residential waste pesticides are generated from farms, farm applicators, or other licensed applicators. These pesticide wastes may be commingled with HHW and are shipped using the state agency’s authorized HW disposal contractor.
  2. The HHW Programs choosing to partner with the [Minnesota Department of Agriculture](https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw4-62.pdf) MDA for pesticide waste collection may be eligible to receive reimbursement allotments for those efforts.
  3. The MDA limits the amounts participants may dispose of for free. After 300 pounds annually, participants will be asked to pay a portion of the costs for additional wastes. To report ag generated wastes, use the [Agricultural Waste Pesticide Record Form](https://www.mda.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/docs/2022-01/agwastepesticideform.pdf).