

Montana Ag Safety Program



Spraying Safety

- Read and understand the product label. Adhere to all PPE, mixing/handling, application, storage, and disposal guidelines.
- Clothes made of cotton, leather or canvas are not chemically resistant – even for dry formulations!
- Equipment with enclosed cabs is ideal for pesticide application. Enclosed cabs should be considered a supplement to proper PPE NOT a replacement. Remember the outside of the equipment will be contaminated after use.
- Read all operator's manuals; become familiar with the service requirements for each piece of equipment. Perform all schedule maintenance at specified intervals.
- Follow all safety recommendations in the machine operator's manual.
- Conduct regular "walk-arounds".
 - Use all your senses – if something looks, sounds, feels, or smells wrong; take time to investigate the cause and resolve it as soon as possible.
- Keep all moving components greased to manufacturer's specifications.
- Replace broken and worn parts.
- Utilize all shields and guards.
- Disengage ALL power before working on or around the equipment. Ensure that rotating parts have come to a complete stop BEFORE approaching.
- Lock and block all hydraulics before working on or around.
- Keep a charged fire extinguisher and basic first aid kit in each piece of equipment.
- Never operate at speeds too great for conditions, equipment capacity, or operator capability.
- Never allow riders on the tractor or implement during operation or machine adjustment. Only one person – the operator – should be on the tractor while in operation.
- Avoid sharp turns and aggressive maneuvering.
- Ensure all transporting devices are in position and properly secured. Transport equipment in narrowest possible configuration. Follow all rural roadway safety recommendations.
- Spraying should be done under favorable conditions ONLY. Avoid spraying at elevated wind speeds or during periods of air inversion.
- Use the correct nozzle and correct pressure to adequately manage droplet size and minimize drift. Spray at the lowest boom height (or wand height) possible.
- Appropriate spill containment should be readily available at storage, loading, and mixing sites. Act immediately to manage any spills.
- When applying pesticide with handheld sprayers remember: gloves should be cuffed and worn outside of the sleeves if most spraying will be occurring with your arms elevated (above your head); gloves should be worn inside the sleeves if spraying with your arms lowered.
- **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR "SMALL" SPRAYERS**
 - Follow all safe ATV use guidelines when utilizing ATV mounted sprayers.
 - Backpack or other hand-held systems should be inspected regularly for leaking.