



Grow the Crop

Handout 16

Procedure in Case of Poisoning

Procedure in case of poisoning

The local doctor must be advised in advance which CPP's are going to be used during the season. Supply him with a copy of every CPP's label that will be used. This should enable him to have appropriate antidotes on hand.

Every person that works with CPPs or comes into contact with CPPs should be thoroughly aware of the symptoms of poisoning. A list of the symptoms should be displayed prominently within the work area.

General Signs and Symptoms of Poisoning (AVCASA, 2001)

- Headache
- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Tremors of Tongue and Eyelids
- Salivation
- Cramps
- Vomiting
- Sweating
- Muscular Weakness
- Anxiety
- Blurred Vision

In the event of poisoning, arrange for medical attention as soon as possible, or arrange for transporting the affected person to a hospital or clinic.

While this is being done, administer the following first aid procedures:

- Determine which CPP caused the poisoning.
- If the product is known, consult the label for the specific first aid procedures.
- Determine how the CPP was taken in, i.e. by mouth, through the skin or by inhalation.
- Make sure that the breathing tract is open.
- If the patient is unconscious, turn them onto their stomach.
- Start artificial respiration if the person is not breathing.
- If the patient absorbed the CPP via the skin, remove the patient from the contamination point, remove all contaminated clothing and wash affected areas with soap and water.
- If the eyes have been affected, wash with clean water for at least 15 minutes.
- If the CPPs have been swallowed do NOT induce vomiting unless it is specifically specified on the chemical's label.
- Keep the patient warm.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES TO BE ADMINISTERED BY QUALIFIED MEDICAL PERSONNEL

The following emergency procedures can be administered to a person that has been poisoned, but may ONLY be administered by qualified, authorised medical personnel:

Organophosphate poisoning – Atropine by injection.

Organochlorine poisoning – Treatment will depend on symptoms. Control convulsions and maintain tissue oxygenation.

Carbamate poisoning– Atropine by injection.