

Agriculture Worker Safety

PathStone Corporation & NFJP

PathStone Corporation is a private not-for profit human development services organization serving in 8 states & Puerto Rico. We are the current grantee of the National Farmworker Jobs Program.

National Farmworker Jobs Program is a federally funded, locally administered grant aimed toward providing workforce development to individuals involved with farming, and their dependents, with the goal of stabilizing their careers in agriculture or pursuing new career pathways.

Agriculture workers are at risk DAILY for Fatal & Non-Fatal Injuries:

- Work mainly outdoors in harsh conditions
- Often in remote, rural, and removed areas
- Requires long hours
- Requires use of equipment, heavy machinery and chemicals
- Exposed to risky conditions like rural traffic, stress, etc.



Dangerous Occupation:

- Each year, more people die while farming than while serving as police officers, firefighters or other emergency responders
- US Bureau of Labor Statistics reports an average rate of 23 work-related deaths per 100,000 agriculture workers
- Tractor rollovers are the leading cause of fatalities in the ag industry, accounting for more than half of all farm-related deaths
 - One in ten tractor operators overturns a tractor in their lifetime
- Heat is the most common cause of fatalities for crop workers
- A child dies from an ag-related accident every three days
- 50% of poisoning cases from chemicals (household & farm) happen with children under six



How Do We Keep Our Farm Workers & Farm Worker Families Safe:

Educate not only farm workers but farmworker families on how to stay safe on the farm and at home!



This is possible through the ***Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP)*** Health & Safety Programs.



Pesticide Safety- Worker Protection Standard (WPS):

All agriculture workers who work with or around pesticides are required to have WPS training

Before workers enter an area where pesticides have been applied or an area where an REI is in place. WPS must receive WPS training on an annual basis

Helps workers stay safe and healthy around pesticides



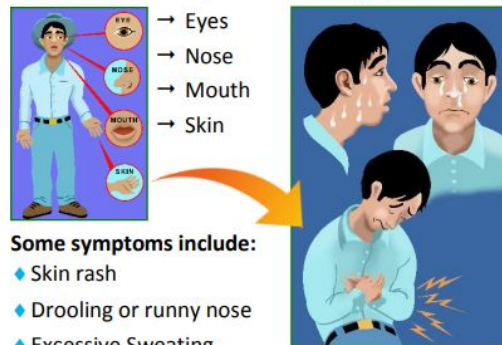
Pesticide Safety- Worker Protection Standard (WPS):

After completing the training, workers should be able to help protect themselves by knowing:

- How to prevent exposure to pesticides
- What to do if they are exposed to a pesticide
- Where to get information about pesticides and emergency health facilities
- What employers must do to help protect workers from pesticides used at work

ROUTES OF PESTICIDES EXPOSURE & SYMPTOMS:

Pesticides can enter your body through your:



Some symptoms include:

- ◆ Skin rash
- ◆ Drooling or runny nose
- ◆ Excessive Sweating
- ◆ Irritation of nose, throat or eyes
- ◆ Dizziness, confusion, nausea, vomiting
- ◆ Reproductive health problems
(infertility, miscarriage and birth defects)
- ◆ In rare cases, seizure, coma, and death



State of Maine WPS Requirements:

- Agricultural employer must ensure that WPS training is completed within the last 12 months:
 - There is NO grace period for WPS training!
 - UNLESS individual is a licensed private or commercial pesticide applicator, or certified as a crop advisor acknowledged appropriate in writing by EPA, State or Tribal agency responsible for pesticide enforcement
- **Training Records** for each worker must be kept on site for 2 years form the date of training and the records must include the following:
 - Workers printed name and signature
 - Date of training
 - Trainers name
 - Evidence of the trainers qualification to train
 - Employer's name
 - Information to identify which EPA-approved training materials were used

We supply you with all the necessary information for your records when you complete a Health & Safety Training course with our trainers!



Heat Stress Prevention Training:

Help workers understand what heat illness is, signs & symptoms, and what to do to prevent it.

How workers can effectively protect themselves from future exposure - types of clothing, what to drink and how often to do it, when and where breaks should be taken

Understand any personal characteristics that could make people more vulnerable to heat illness



Heat Stress Prevention:



After completing the training, workers will have the knowledge to:

- Recognize heat stress symptoms in themselves and others around them
- Be able to decipher between the different heat related illnesses
 - Heat Stress vs. Heat Stroke
- Respond in an appropriate manner in case of a heat related emergency



Limiting Exposure Around Families (LEAF):



Learn how to keep your home and your families safe from pesticide exposure

Understand what pesticides are and what is pesticide residue

Recognize signs and symptoms of pesticide exposure, diseases/ illness that can be attributed to pesticide exposure



Pesticide Exposure & Pregnancy (PEP):

Beneficial for all farmworkers who are parents, about to become parents or have regular contact with pregnant women

Educate on how pesticides and residue exposure not only affects the mother, but also the unborn baby

Inform individuals of alternatives or specific safety measures that can be put into place when working with pesticides around unborn children

LIMIT YOUR EXPOSURE DURING PREGNANCY

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The safest plan is to avoid using pesticides at work or in your home during your pregnancy.

Try using alternatives such as vinegar, baking soda, and lemon as recommended.

- Always use clean clothes
- Wash your work clothes separate from family clothes
- Use a long sleeve shirt and long pants
- Wash your hands before eating and using the bathroom



Limiting Exposure Around Families (LEAF) w/ Pesticide Exposure & Pregnancy (PEP):

After completing the combined training, workers will have the knowledge to:

- Create safe storage areas in their homes for pesticides and common household cleaning products
- Know where and how to identify hazards at work & at home
- Understand how to ensure workers are not unintentionally bringing hazards into the home
- How to identify an emergency regarding exposure and how to appropriately respond
- Understand safe alternatives to pesticides or how to stay safe when there is no safe alternative available
- Gain knowledge regarding the serious health effects to unborn babies caused by pesticide exposure
- Realize children are more vulnerable than adults in regards to pesticide exposure



Additional Health & Safety Trainings Available



Tractor Safety:

Ten Rules of Tractor Safety:

1. Keep your tractor in good condition, know it well, and read the operator's manual
2. Use ROPS and wear your seatbelt
3. Know your terrain and work area
4. Start the engine in an open space to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning
5. Always keep your power take-off properly shielded
6. Keep your hitches low and always on the drawbar. Otherwise, your tractor might flip over backwards
7. Never get off a moving tractor or leave it with its engine running. Shut it down before leaving the seat.
8. Never refuel or add coolant while the engine is running or hot
9. Keep all children off and away from your tractor and its implements at all time
10. Think safety first, then take your time and do it right



Chemical Hazard Communication (CHC):

CHC training is to inform employers & workers about:

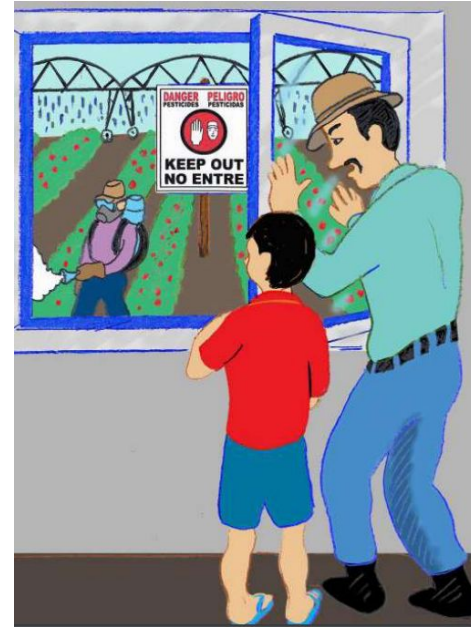
- Chemical labels and requirements
- How to recognize potential hazards in the workplace
- How to avoid injuries & illness from exposures to chemical hazards in the workplace



Jose Learns About Pesticides:

Storytelling curriculum developed for farmworker children

Meant to highlight the daily dangers that farmworkers and farmworker children could be exposed to and how to effectively work to prevent emergency situations



Health and Safety Training Requirements:

EPA issued rules governing the protection of employees on farms, or in forests, nurseries and greenhouses from occupational exposure to agricultural pesticides in 1992. These rules are called the Worker Protection Standard (WPS)

Who is covered by WPS:

- Agricultural/ Farmworkers
- Pesticide Handlers
- Crop Advisors

Types of Employers:

- Agricultural Employers
- Handler Employers

Employers are responsible for making sure workers and handlers receive the protections required annually!



PathStone Health & Safety Training:

Training Topics:

- Worker Protection Standard (WPS)
- Heat Stress Prevention (HSP)
- Limiting Exposure Around Families w/ Pesticide Exposure & Pregnancy (LEAF w/ PEP)

When & Where: You tell us! We travel to you and bring all necessary materials and paperwork

Time: Training takes approx. 2 hours to complete (including paperwork) and covers the above trainings

**** Additional trainings available upon request - may alter total training time****



How to get you or your staff FREE Farmworker Safety Training in 2023:

Elizabeth:

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Health & Safety Training
Coordinator*

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Sarah:

*Outreach Coordinator
Health & Safety Trainer*

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Chip:

*Placement & Career Services
Developer
Health & Safety Trainer*

Email:

jbeckwith@pathstone.org

Bangor Office: 263 State Street Bangor ME 04401 - (207) 573-9009

Presque Isle Office: 771 Main Street Presque Isle ME 04769 - (207) 764-3721

*ask for PathStone



Thank You!

PathStone



Connecting You to Opportunities