

What are the hazards and how might they harm?



Skin irritation, chemical burns, inhalation injuries and poisoning from contact with chemicals



Environmental contamination



Trip injuries as a result of obstructions



Back or muscle strain from manual handling



Bacterial or viral infections from contact with contaminated material

What PPE should the individual wear?



What other precautions should be taken?



Use barriers to restrict access to work areas



Do not eat, drink, smoke or vape when using chemicals

Pesticide and herbicide spraying using a knapsack or tractor mounted boom

Safety Task Card STCBG 43

Safe System of Work

1. You must hold the relevant recognised certificate for competence for the safe use of pesticides and for the application type, i.e. National Proficiency Test Council Certificate PA1 and PA6 for knapsack spraying and PA1 and PA2 for tractor mounted boom spraying.
2. As far as possible, the activity should be carried out when the fewest people are likely to be in the area and pedestrian traffic is minimal.
3. Visually inspect the equipment before use to ensure that it is not cracked or otherwise damaged..
4. You must wear reinforced toe-capped safety boots and high viz vest or jacket.
5. When handling chemical containers, decanting chemicals, and dealing with spillages you must wear PPE as described in the SDS for the relevant chemical. This is likely to include a respirator mask, safety goggles and protective gloves. When spraying with a knapsack you must wear a respirator mask, disposable chemical hazard suit, safety goggles and protective gloves.
6. Follow the manufacturer's instructions when diluting chemicals and refer to the SDS for additional guidance.
7. Decanting and diluting water courses must be undertaken away from any watercourses or drains.
8. Erect warning signage and barriers if working in a public access areas.
9. Before starting carry out visual inspection of the work area checking for hypodermic needles, nitrous oxide cylinders, trip hazards and wasp and bee nests, and dog, fox and cat faeces. Report any hazards identified to your manager.
10. When using a knapsack only low-pressure equipment may be used.
11. Maintain a safe working distance between yourself and other people.
12. Use good manual handling practices when putting a knapsack on or taking it off.
13. Spraying is only permitted in good dry weather conditions and with wind speeds not exceeding 4mph.
14. If any person enters your area of work while spraying. Then you must cease spraying until it is safe to continue.
15. You must be First Aid trained and know what to do in an emergency should you or anyone else come into contact with any chemical.

If you have any concerns, stop and speak with your line manager before proceeding

List any additional hazards or risks you have identified, and control measures required to manage these.

Pesticide and herbicide spraying using a knapsack or tractor mounted boom continued

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Safe System of Work

11. Keep the area tidy to prevent obstructions which can pose a trip hazard and do not leave equipment unattended.
12. Thoroughly wash your hands before eating, drinking or smoking.
13. Ensure a fully stocked, spill kit, as well as and disposal bags or a suitable container are available for the containment of any waste are available at the point of work.
14. Ensure a first aid kit, and a supply of clean water is available at the point of work.

Emergency procedures:

In the event of a fire ensure you have the required information, including details of pesticides, their quantities and the SDSs for all products.

In the event of poisoning

1. Provide first aid immediately and take the person to hospital for medical attention as quickly as possible.
 2. Call for an ambulance.
 3. Provide the hospital with the name of the chemical and if possible, the active ingredients.
 4. The relevant MSD should be taken to hospital with the patient.
 5. Try to keep the patient calm and quiet.
 6. If clothing and PPE is contaminated this should be removed, taking care not to spread contamination.
 7. Wash contaminated skin thoroughly with soap and water.
 8. If breathing ceases apply artificial respiration immediately.
 9. If the patient's eye is contaminated, make them blink the eyelid under water, or flush eye (holding it open if necessary), for at least 15 minutes. Then cover eye with a soft pad, kept in position with a lightly applied bandage.
 10. If the chemical has been swallowed, refer to the MSD immediately and follow the first aid procedures.
- Procedures must be in place for emergencies, such as accidents or overturning vehicles or trailers.

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