



Worksite: \_\_\_\_\_ Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date/Time: \_\_\_\_\_

## Topic C351: Herbicides

**Introduction:** Herbicides, chemical weed killers, have widely replaced mechanical methods of weed control in operations where intensive and mechanized agriculture is practiced. Selective herbicides are practical alternatives to labor intensive weed control in residential and commercial landscaping operations. The handling and application of herbicides presents potential hazards to the user which must be addressed.

Herbicides can cause burning and irritation in eyes, nose and throat, as well as nosebleeds, coughing and muscle cramps.

### Chemicals can enter your body:

- Ingestion – Swallowing the herbicide directly or through contaminated food, drink, cigarettes.
- Absorption – Contact with the skin or eyes.
- Inhalation – Breathing the fumes or chemical overspray.

**Herbicide residue can be carried by the wind. Cover as much of your skin as possible and wear PPE.**

**Signs of serious exposure:** Pupils becoming small, drooling and/or a runny nose, difficulty breathing.

### PPE:

- Eye/face protection to prevent splash or spray.
- Respiratory protection for spray application (Review MSDS/SDS for appropriate protection)
- Long sleeve shirt and pants to prevent skin contact
- Medium to heavy duty chemical resistant gloves
- Rubber or chemical resistant boots

**Handling Safe Practices:** It may take a long time for overexposure effects to become apparent.

- Wash gloves and boots before removing
- Wash work clothes separate from laundry
- Wash hand and arms after putting work clothes in wash
- Wash with soap, water, and shampoo after each work day
- Wash face and hands with soap and water before eating, drinking, or using the toilet.
- Wash picked food before you eat it.

**Residue:** Residue is the trace amount of chemical that remains after the fields have been treated. Hazardous residue can be on plants, in soil, and in water systems near application sites. Residue can also be carried by the wind. Cover as much of your skin as possible and wear proper personal protective equipment while near these areas.

### First Aid:

If an accident happens when using any hazardous chemical, contact emergency medical assistance immediately and locate label and SDS/MSDS. If medical assistance is not available, and you are properly trained in first aid procedure, administer first aid by following the directions on the label and/or MSDS. Remember to take the chemical label or MSDS to the doctor, health clinic, or emergency room.

Immediately wash with clean water if pesticides are spilled or sprayed onto your body. Then shower, shampoo, and change into clean clothing as soon as possible. Seek immediate medical attention if any signs of overexposure are present.

Swallowing a hazardous chemical can cause poisoning and even death. If you swallow a hazardous chemical, get immediate medical treatment.

Eye damage can happen quickly from some types of hazardous chemicals (eyes absorb hazardous chemicals faster than any other part of the body). If your eyes are exposed to any chemicals, rinse your eyes immediately for 15 minutes with clean water and seek medical attention.

**Conclusion:** Always follow manufacturer's directions when mixing, handling, or using herbicides. Read and understand the MSDS for any chemical used.

**Employee Attendance:** (Names or signatures of personnel who are attending this meeting)

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*These guidelines do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.*