The Safe Use of Pesticides

General Safety Instructions:

✓ Know the pest.
✓ Use pesticides only when needed.
✓ Always ask the advice of an authority on problems with pests and pesticides.
✓ Use only the recommended pesticide for the problem.
✓ Know how effective the pesticide is and any hazards it might present.
✓ Read the label – all of it, even the small print.
✓ Commercial pest control operators, farmers and other applicators of large quantities of pesticides or organophosphorus pesticides should contact their physicians at the beginning of the season, before using these materials, and submit to a blood test. At that time, the person(s) should inform the physician of the types of pesticides he or she will be using. A good understanding should be established between the employer, the applicator and the physician regarding the availability of the physician's services and certain standard charges for such services. While discussing the pesticides to be used, be sure your physician has a current list of phone numbers for the Official Poison Information Centers in case he or she is not familiar with all of the types of pesticides and their antidotes, as well as signs and symptoms of pesticide poisoning.
✓ Know what you are to do in the event of an accident. PLAN AHEAD. Call your physician immediately if an accident occurs.
✓ Have your physician's phone number posted by your phone. In an emergency, time is extremely important.
✓ Consider wearing a Medic-Alert emblem.
✓ Take time to explain the safe use of pesticides to employees. Make sure they understand.
✓ Check your application equipment for leaks and clogged lines, nozzles and strainers.
✓ Calibrate your equipment frequently for proper output. Use water or other inert materials.
✓ Check respirator for cleanliness, clean filter and proper fit.
✓ Check gloves and other protective clothing for holes and cleanliness before each use.
✓ Make sure plenty of clean water, soap, towels and a clean change of clothing are available.
✓ Do not permit delivery of pesticides unless a responsible representative is on hand to receive and properly store them.
✓ Make sure humans have been warned and livestock and pets that may be exposed have been removed from the area to be treated.
✓ Cover food and water containers.
✓ Check the label to make sure the time intervals between date of application and harvest, slaughter or milking will comply with those given on the label.