What to do when...

Pesticide gets in eyes
- Flush eyes immediately with clean running water.
  - Alternatively gently pour a cup/bowl of water into eye.
  - Hold eyelids open to thoroughly flush eye.
  - Continue flushing for 15 minutes.
- Get medical attention if irritation continues.
  - Be sure to provide pesticide label to medical personnel.

Pesticide is swallowed
- Follow exactly the first aid directions on the pesticide label.
  - The label will specify whether or not to induce vomiting.
- Contact medical personnel immediately.
  - Have pesticide label on hand to provide them with information.
  - Be prepared to answer questions regarding how the emergency happened.
- If the person is conscious and if the pesticide isn’t corrosive or petroleum based, induce vomiting.
  - Do not induce vomiting to an unconscious person.
- If person is conscious, have him/her drink as much water or milk as possible (1 liter for adult, or large glass for child under 7).
  - Do not give liquids to an unconscious person or someone having convulsions.

Pesticide is inhaled
Pesticides may be inhaled from spraying fumigants, dusts or fumes from burning pesticides. The pesticide may attack lungs or other organs as it is absorbed through the lungs.
- Leave contaminated area.
  - Remember to protect yourself first with a respiratory device before rescuing someone.
    - Cartridge respirators do not provide adequate protection in highly concentrated pesticide fumes.
- Loosen clothing to allow easier breathing.
- If breathing has stopped, administer rescue breathing or CPR until medical personnel arrive.
- If person goes into shock keep person calm and lying down. Remove contaminated clothing and wrap person in blanket to prevent chilling.
- If person convulses, protect from potential physical trauma. Make sure person’s airway remains open.
- Get immediate medical attention.

Prepared by Frank Zalom, Pat Thompson, Mark Henderson and Mark Bell, July 2009

Reference: Pesticide Safety for Small Farms, UC ANR Pub. 21555
The Safe and Effective Use of Pesticides, UC ANR Pub. 3324
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