Pesticide Safety Training with Rachel Maccini – Participant Feedback

Station 1

Thank you all for your thoughtful participation in the review of PPE requirements for Permethrin 3.2 AG across mixing/loading, application, and early entry activities. Overall, responses reflected a strong engagement with label-based safety standards, and many of you demonstrated a solid understanding of the requirements.

🔷 Mixing/Loading

Most groups successfully identified the core PPE required for this high-risk activity. The strongest responses provided clear descriptions of gear, emphasized chemical resistance, and ensured full body coverage. Some teams also showed great self-awareness in recognizing and noting missing components—an important part of the learning process.

🔷 Application

Responses were generally well aligned with the label requirements. Several groups went above the basic requirements by including optional protective elements like face shields and goggles, which is excellent practice when risk of exposure increases. Others are encouraged to review the label closely to ensure inclusion of all essential gear, such as chemical-resistant gloves, footwear, and appropriate base clothing.

🔷 Early Entry (WPS)

Most teams identified the correct PPE for early entry under the 12-hour REI, including coveralls, chemical-resistant gloves, and shoes with socks. A few were very close but omitted one key item, while others correctly noted the reentry interval but didn't list all the required gear. Accuracy in both recognizing time restrictions and listing appropriate PPE is important for full compliance.

Station 2

Team Results

- 2 teams answered all 8 questions
- 2 teams answered 7 questions
- 2 teams answered 6 questions

The most commonly missed or incomplete question was Question 4 (regarding respiratory protection)

Clarification on Question 4 – Respiratory Protection

Question: Under what conditions is respiratory protection required when applying Permethrin 3.2 AG?

Correct Answer:

Respiratory protection is required when applying the product in enclosed areas or when exposure to mist or vapors is likely—such as during ULV (ultra-low volume) fogging indoors.

This information can be found on Page 2 of the label, though it is somewhat vague. It mentions that chemical-resistant headgear is required for certain exposure scenarios but doesn't explicitly highlight respiratory protection as prominently as other PPE. This made the question more difficult for many teams, which is understandable.

It's a good reminder that respiratory protection requirements are sometimes situational and may not always be clearly outlined unless specific application methods (e.g., fogging, indoor use) are being reviewed.

Station 3

Thanks to everyone for diving into the pesticide mixing and loading scenario at Station 3! Your mission: spot the safety violations hiding in plain sight—and you delivered!

Here's how the detective teams stacked up:

- One eagle-eyed team found an impressive 9 violations – you didn't miss a thing!
- Another sharp team spotted 7 violations – excellent attention to detail.
- Three teams uncovered 6 violations each – solid, thorough work across the board!
- One team found 5 – just shy of the rest but still showing great observation skills.

Whether you found 5 or 9, you all engaged critically with the scene and showed real awareness of what safe pesticide handling should look like. From missing PPE to open containers and poor spill management, this activity reinforced just how important every detail is in maintaining a safe workplace.

Nice work, everyone — and remember, in real life, the stakes are higher than points, so keep those sharp eyes ready!

Station 4 Recap – "Safe or Unsafe?" Pesticide Safety Challenge

You were asked to evaluate six images and decide whether each scenario showed safe or unsafe pesticide practices, and explain your reasoning.

Shout-out to the top scorers!

- Three teams scored 5 out of 6 – Excellent observation and interpretation!
- Two teams scored 4 out of 6 – Strong effort with just one or two missteps.
- One team scored 1 out of 6, but brought up thoughtful points and showed clear critical thinking—even when the answers didn't match exactly. Great job sticking with it!

Photo-by-Photo Safety Breakdown:

Photo #1 – ✅ SAFE

This is a textbook example of proper pesticide storage. Products are organized, well-labeled, and placed on metal shelving. There's no floor drain, and secondary containment is used for liquids—all meeting best practices.

Photo #2 – ❌ UNSAFE

While there's good lighting and locked metal cabinets, several issues exist: missing labels, improper storage of fertilizers and alcohol, no secondary containment, and liquids stored above powders. These violations increase contamination risk.

Photo #3 – ❌ UNSAFE

A boom sprayer that looks clean, but: pesticide containers are unsecured, a water bottle (food item) is nearby, and the tank lid is not sealed. These factors create contamination and spill hazards during transport or application.

Photo #4 – ❌ UNSAFE

Good intentions here—bins and an enclosed truck bed—but the bins are open, items are disorganized, and labels are missing. Spray equipment stored alongside pesticides also increases contamination risk.

Photo #5 – ❌ UNSAFE

Although it has structural positives (metal shelves, locked cabinet), issues like missing labels, food/beverage storage, lack of containment, and PPE stored with pesticides all present safety concerns.

Photo #6 – ❌ UNSAFE

Organized and clean, but several critical points disqualify it as safe: handwritten labels are incomplete and not EPA-compliant, wooden shelving is porous, and WPS signs are stored with pesticides—creating contamination risk.

Final Notes

This activity challenged you to look beyond the surface and apply what you know about pesticide safety. Whether you scored high or hit a few bumps, the goal is the same: improving real-world awareness and safe practices.

Keep up the great work,

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