

# Pesticide Emergencies - *Keep That Cell Phone Handy!*

Robert G. (Bob) Bellinger, *Extension Pesticide Coordinator*  
Clemson University Dept. of Entomology

Just about everyone has a cell phone. Besides the day-to-day uses, cell phones can come in handy in many kinds of emergencies. In fact, cell phone manufacturers and service providers all tell you to keep yours with you for use in emergencies. But if you have a cell phone and you have even one emergency response telephone number programmed into it, you are in a very small minority. If you have them listed somewhere that's a good start, but having them in your cell phone is better. Who you need to call may vary with the kind of emergency. And success in getting the help you need depends not only on you having the right phone numbers to call, but your ability to place the call.

Pesticide emergencies- including thefts, leaks, spills, fires, traffic accidents- usually happen to someone else. However, just in case that someone else ends up being YOU some day, here are a few suggestions to minimize the panic factor.

Decide what telephone numbers you may need later and put them into your cell phone NOW. Make sure that everyone in your company who has a cell phone has these emergency phone numbers in their phones also. Program these phone numbers into the office phones and maybe even your home phone as well, if this is possible.

What phone numbers? How about 911? How hard is it to dial 911? It could be harder than you want it to be in an emergency- such as one where you may be a victim. And what if someone has to use your phone to get help for you? At times like these you may need all the help you can get! It is a well known fact that in emergency situations requiring making a telephone call, the caller's fingers get larger and may even turn into thumbs! Another emergency number to have is the South Carolina Highway Patrol. This is a good number to have in case of a vehicular accident, but also other situations. They have regional phone numbers so

check the front of your local telephone directory for the correct number(s). If there are other local emergency response numbers for your locale, get these into your phone as well.

Most pesticide containers have a telephone number for medical and/or transportation emergencies. Check the labels of the pesticides from each of the various companies whose products you use. Again, now is the time to look for these numbers. Another known fact is that the already tiny print on pesticide labels gets even smaller the more you need it! Get those emergency numbers and put them into your cell phone. The telephone number for medical emergencies may be different from transportation emergency numbers. In case of a medical emergency, have a copy of the label or the container in hand when you call. There is now a universal telephone number for poisonings (all kinds) that can be used from anywhere in the country; it is 1-800-222-1222.

In case of an accident that involves a pesticide spill, a few companies have their own emergency response number. Many companies use CHEMTREC as the emergency contact for spills and transportation accidents.

CHEMTREC's phone number - 1-800-424-9300 - is listed on many pesticide containers to call in case of a spill as the primary telephone number, or as an alternate phone number to call. Another number that is useful is EPA's National Response Center for Toxic Chemical and Oil Spills - 1-800-424-8802.

Get these phone numbers and program them into your cell phone now. And may you never have to use them.

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