

Pesticide Storage And Safety Is Extremely Important



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The 2009 crop season is just around the corner. Farmers will soon be transporting, storing and using a wide variety of crop protection chemicals. These pesticides are relatively safe if handled and applied according to label requirements. Proper pesticide storage is extremely important. Lock pesticides and related materials in a cabinet, room or separate building designated solely to store these materials. When possible, the storage area should be downwind and downhill from sensitive areas, such as homes, livestock facilities, gardens and groundwater sources. The area should be located in an area not subject to flooding. The chemical storage area must be posted with signage indicating “DANGER: PESTICIDES,” “KEEP OUT.” Access to this facility must be limited to appropriate individuals. Never store pesticides where food, feed, seed, fertilizers or other products can become contaminated. Store dry pesticides on the top shelf and liquids on the lower shelves. Always store chemicals in the original, labeled container. Make sure they’re tightly sealed. Maintain a current inventory of all materials in storage, along with a label of all materials, in a secure place away from the storage area. Date and identify all pesticides when they are placed into storage, and store no more than will be

needed for one season. The pesticide storage area should have safety equipment and materials to prevent and handle accidents or spills. Activated charcoal, absorptive clay or sawdust are good materials to absorb liquid spills. Personal protective equipment should be nearby and readily available, but must be stored properly to avoid contamination by pesticides. In case of a spill in the storage area, make sure you have clean-up materials and a plan of action. Start by assessing the situation and determining how to safely proceed. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment. Control the spill to prevent further contamination. Contain the spill from spreading to additional areas. Clean up the spillage and dispose of according to label directions. Large or significant spills should be reported to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, telephone 1.800.782.7860. Hopefully, you will never have to experience a pesticide-related poisoning. But if necessary, contact the National Poison Center hotline at 1.800.222.1222. Never delay getting appropriate medical assistance. Remember to take the pesticide label information with you to give to medical professionals. Additional information on pesticide storage and security is available at the Illinois Pesticide Safety Education website, <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/psep/facts/?PageID=1635>.
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