

SECTION 10 - PESTICIDES

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10 PESTICIDES

Synopsis

This section is designed to provide guidance in the use and disposal of pesticides in and around NWS facilities and work sites.

The section applies to all NWS facilities and work sites.

Initial Implementation Requirements:

- C Compare Site/Facility Operations with the Requirements of this Section**
 - S** Determine if NWS operations are regulated under State law (*10.3.2*)
 - S** Pesticides are managed in accord with NWS requirements (*10.4*)
 - S** Provide training, if required (*10.3.2 and 10.4c*)

Recurring and Annual Task Requirements:

- C Provide Refresher Training for Applicators as Necessary.**

Checklist

10 Pesticides	YES	NO	N/A
1. Do NWS personnel use pesticides or insecticides?	_____	_____	_____
2. Does the State regulate this use under State law? (10.3.2)	_____	_____	_____
3. If so, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. has a Pesticide Program Coordinator been appointed? b. are only EPA-approved pesticides employed? (10.3.1 & 10.4) c. are all NWS employees who use the pesticides trained in accord with the State rules? (10.3.2) 	_____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____

10 PESTICIDES

10.1 Purpose and Scope

This section is designed to provide guidance in the use and disposal of pesticides in and around NWS facilities and work sites. The section applies to all NWS facilities and work sites.

10.2 Acronyms Employed in This Section

EPA	-	Environmental Protection Agency
FIFRA	-	Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, Rodenticide Act
NWS	-	National Weather Service
NWSH	-	National Weather Service Headquarters

10.3 Regulatory Requirements

10.3.1 Federal

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)

Under FIFRA, the EPA created a program for approving pesticides for use as well as the training and certification of pesticide applicators. While the EPA maintains the approval process for itself, it has authorized most States to create their own pesticide applicator training and certification programs.

10.3.2 State

The authorized States have a major part in compliance with FIFRA. Currently, the requirements vary significantly and as a result, the Environmental Focal Point should check the EPA website of State contacts at:

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/safety/applicators/statepro.htm> or the Association of American Pesticide Control Officials website at www.aapco.ceris.purdue.edu and click the banner for "Control Officials." This site will provide information on whether a State has an authorized program and who to contact for more specific information regarding:

- a. which NWS operations are regulated
- b. who must be trained
- c. what training is required
- d. how the training can be obtained
- e. how trained employees become certified as pesticide applicators.

If further assistance is required, contact the NWS Regional Environmental Coordinator and/or the NOAA Regional Environmental Compliance Officer (RECO).

10.4 NWS Program

Whether done by NWS personnel or contractor personnel, NWS facilities and work sites that use pesticides to control insects, rodents and other pests must:

- a. ensure only EPA-approved pesticides, fungicides or rodenticides are applied.
- b. ensure all unused materials, empty containers, washes and other wastes are disposed in accord with either the requirements on the label or the hazardous waste regulations.
- c. ensure applicator personnel are trained according to the EPA or authorized State rules and are certified.
- d. if a contractor is used to apply pesticides, the contract must prohibit the use of NWS water to mix the concentrate unless a backflow prevention valve is used.

10.5 Responsibilities

10.5.1 NWS Headquarters (NWSH)

- a. The NWS Environmental/Safety Office shall perform an annual assessment of the NWSH facilities to ensure that the facilities are in compliance with this section.
- b. The NWSH Environmental/Safety Office shall periodically perform an assessment of the regional headquarters and field offices to ensure compliance with this section. The frequency of these regional and field office assessments shall be determined by the NWSH Environmental/Safety Office.
- c. Requests for clarification concerning this section shall be directed to the NWSH Environmental/Safety Office.

10.5.2 Regional or Operating Unit Environmental/Safety Coordinator

- a. Shall monitor and coordinate to promote compliance with the requirements of this procedure for the regional headquarters and field offices or operating units.
- b. Shall ensure that procedures are developed at regional headquarters or operating unit facilities.
- c. Shall perform an annual assessment of the regional headquarters facilities or

operating unit to monitor and promote compliance with the requirements of this section.

- d. Shall perform assessments or designate personnel to perform assessments of all field offices to monitor and promote compliance with the requirements of the section every two years.

10.5.3 Station Manager

- a. Shall have oversight over the implementation of this section and ensure that the requirements of this section are followed by individuals at the NWS facility.
- b. Shall ensure that sufficient personnel and resources are available to enable compliance with the requirements of this section.
- c. Shall ensure NWS employees follow the requirements of this section.
- d. Shall review or delegate review of this section on an annual basis to ensure that the facility is complying with its requirements. Confirmation of this review shall be forwarded to the Regional or Operating Unit Environmental/Safety Coordinator.

10.5.4 Environmental or Environmental/Safety Focal Point or Designated Person

- a. Shall ensure that any tasks delegated to them by the Station Manager are implemented in accordance with the requirements of this section.
- b. Shall ensure only EPA-approved pesticides are used at the facility/work site.

10.5.5 Employees

- a. Individual employees affected by this section are required to read, understand and comply with the requirements of this section.
- b. Report all violations of the requirements of this section to their supervisor or Safety Focal Point.

10.6 References

Incorporated References

The following list of references is incorporated as a whole or in part into this section. These references can provide additional explanation or guidance for the implementation of this section.

10.6.1 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

40 CFR Subchapter E - Pesticide Programs (Parts 152-186)