

SECTION 10 -PESTICIDES

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Synopsis

NOTE: This section is designed to provide guidance in the use and disposal of pesticides in and around National Weather Service (NWS) facilities and work sites.

The section applies to all NWS facilities and work sites.

Initial Implementation Requirements:

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

Recurring and Annual Task Requirements:

- Provide refresher training for applicators, as necessary.

Pesticides Checklist	YES	NO	N/A
1. Do NWS personnel apply pesticides at work sites, <u>other than for personal protection</u> (e.g., use of wasp and mosquito sprays)?	—	—	—
2. Does the State regulate these applications under the State law? (10.3.2)	—	—	—
3. If so,			
a. Are all NWS employees who use the pesticides trained in accordance with the State rules? (10.3.2)	—	—	—
b. Has a Pesticide Program Coordinator been appointed?	—	—	—
c. Are only Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved pesticides used? (10.3.1)	—	—	—

SECTION 10 - PESTICIDES

10.1 Purpose and Scope

This section is designed to provide guidance in the use and disposal of pesticides in and around National Weather Service (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

SECO NOAA Safety and Environmental Compliance Office

10.3 Regulatory Requirements

10.3.1 Federal

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.

The term “pesticides” includes pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides, and antimicrobials.

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://npic.orst.edu/reg/state_agencies.html or the Association of American Pesticide Control Officials website at <http://www.aapco.org/resources.html>. This web 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/Safety Coordinator and/or the NOAA SECO.

Some States require applicators of the pesticides group to have a State applicators license. For example, if an NWS employee sprays an insecticide in the Rain Gauge shelter or Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS) site, the State may require the employee have a State applicators license.

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 facility water to mix the concentrate unless a backflow prevention valve is used.

NOTE: Use of insecticides for personal protection (e.g., mosquitoes, wasp sprays) is exempt from certification and training requirements.

10.5 Responsibilities

10.5.1 NWS Headquarters (NWSH)

- a. The NWSH Environmental/Safety Office will provide assistance to Regional Headquarters, Operating Unit, and field personnel to ensure that NWS facilities comply with requirements of this section.
- b. NWSH will coordinate with NOAA SECO, as necessary, regarding compliance issues related to this section.

10.5.2 Regional or Operating Unit Environmental/Safety Coordinator

- a. Will monitor and promote compliance with the requirements of this section at field offices or Operating Unit facilities.
- b. Will ensure that applicable procedures are implemented at regional headquarters or operating unit facilities.

10.5.3 Station Manager

- a. Will 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. Will ensure that sufficient personnel and resources are available to comply with the requirements of this section.

- c. Will 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 will be forwarded to the Regional or Operating Unit Environmental/Safety Coordinator.

10.5.4 Environmental or Environmental/Safety Focal Point or Designated Person

- a. Will ensure that any tasks delegated to them by the Station Manager are implemented in accordance with the requirements of this section.
- b. Will 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. Individual employees affected by this section are required to report all violations of the requirements of this section to their supervisor or Safety Focal Point.

10.6 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)