

Public Service Announcement

Prepared for
National Farm Safety & Health Week -2006
September 17-23, 2006

Theme: “Prepare to Prevent”

Simple Preparations Can Prevent Childhood Chemical Poisoning

Chemical poisoning incidents continue to be a potentially lethal problem when products such as industrial and household cleansers and disinfectants, and agricultural pesticides are stored or used improperly. By following a few simple rules, most of the incidents are preventable. Among the suggested guidelines for safe chemical storage and use are:

- All chemicals should be kept in secure storage cabinets or facilities that can be easily child and theft-proofed. It only takes a minute or two for an unattended child to gain access to carelessly stored chemicals. Don't let your little one become one of the hundreds who are poisoned every year in the U.S.

- In work areas, chemical storage cabinets or buildings should have posted signage that clearly indicates the dangers associated with the stored products that are located within. This enables emergency responders to better understand the potential risks when entering these potentially hazardous storage areas.

- Always make sure that chemical storage areas have readily accessible fire extinguishers of the size and type that are appropriate for suppressing a fire before it burns out of control. Personal protective equipment (PPE) for proper mixing, handling and applying

pesticides is very important to the prevention equation. Current information on PPE is found on the product's label and should be closely followed. Don't set a bad example for your children.....always wear PPE to protect yourself from chemical exposure.

- Where large quantities of chemicals may be stored at least seasonally at your operation, notify local first responders and give them a "heads-up" on the potential danger. They will appreciate your proactive approach to providing them with crucial information that will enable the performance of their duties in a manner that will protect them, your family, facilities and equipment, and the environment.

For additional information on chemical safety and protecting your children from poisoning, contact the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety, (888) 844-6322, or Sam Steel at the National Safety Council (800) 621-7615, ext. 2023.