

This Week's Learning Objective:

Backpack Sprayer Hazard Review

Materials Needed for this Session:

A copy of PestSure Loss Lesson "It's Just a Backpack Sprayer" sheet for each attendee.

Bring one of each type of sprayer your attendees use, to the session.

Leader Notes / Training Outline

1. Review the PestSure Loss Lesson "It's Just a Backpack Sprayer". Encourage discussion. Each attendee should have a copy of sheet to take notes.
2. **Discuss:**
 - a. Proper PPE
 - b. Spills and leaks
 - c. Wind and drift
 - d. How a backpack affects your balance
 - e. Securing the backpack for transport in vehicle
3. Open the discussion to the attendees. See Leader Tips below.

- _____
- _____



Leader Tips:

Announce the learning objective: Our objective today is _____

Explain to the group why this topic is being reviewed:

- Prevent you from being injured
- Prevent property damage
- Prevent injury to others
- .

Ask the **group to discuss** the subject matter and give input by drawing from their work experiences:

- Attendee to relate a personal story involving this objective
- Attendee to share something learned on the job involving this objective
- .
- .

5/15/08

PestSure Members,

Loss Lesson – It’s Just a Backpack Sprayer

We are seeing more injuries related to back pack sprayer use. In a recent claim, a technician slipped and fell forward while coming down some deck steps wearing a back pack sprayer that was almost full. The added weight of the back pack and its contents contributed to the initial cause of the fall as well as to the severity of the technician’s injuries to his mid and low back.

Backpack sprayers can vary greatly in total weight depending on the backpack model and amount of product contained therein. This is just one of the items for discussion when issuing a backpack to an employee. In this PestSure workers’ compensation claim, the technician did not anticipate the effect the backpack would have on his balance and center of gravity as he navigated his way back down a staircase. The training he received on the backpack sprayer did not include such things as proper body mechanics, sprayer fill level, harness adjustment, and total weight of the equipment as it relates to body weight.

A sprayer filled with liquid can represent a significant amount of weight. Before issuing a backpack sprayer to a technician, there are several training points that need to be addressed. While this equipment seems somewhat harmless, we are seeing significant injuries to our people like this back injury that is expected to total almost \$300,000 in medical, lost time, and rehabilitation.

Lesson:

Be certain your training includes but is not limited to:

- sprayer assembly
- harness adjustment to suit body size
- sprayer inspection and proper operation
- how to properly put the backpack on and take it off
- equipment weight capacities vs. body weight and employee carrying capacity
- ergonomics; slips, trips & falls, bending & lifting, do’s & do not’s
- protective clothing in case of leaks and to reduce chafing on your skin from the harness

Please discuss this loss with your team. Take this opportunity to hold an employee training session on backpack sprayer use. Review the product manual for information and conduct "hands-on" demonstrations on all aspects of use. Your equipment vendor can be a good source of information and training for this equipment.

NOTES:
