

### This Week's Learning Objective:

## Backpack Sprayer Use

### Materials Needed for this Session:

A copy of PestSure Safety Tip "Backpack Sprayer Safety" and quiz for each attendee.

Gather one of each different backpack sprayer your attendees utilize on the job.

### Leader Notes / Training Outline

1. Review the PestSure Safety Tip "Backpack Sprayer Safety". Encourage discussion.
2. **Discuss:**
  - a. Fill Level
  - b. Donning and Doffing
  - c. Safe Navigation (stairs, inclines, and slippery walking surfaces)
3. Complete the quiz.
4. Review the quiz and then 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
- .
- .

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
- .
- .

# PestSure Safety Tips

INSURING THE FUTURE OF PEST CONTROL

**A five-minute training Series for Pest Management Professionals.**

## Backpack Sprayer Safety

Backpack sprayers are useful equipment for applying chemical over relatively small areas. Typically, backpack sprayers hold from four to six gallons of mixed water and chemicals and therefore, fully loaded sprayers weigh from 35 to over 50 pounds. Safe and effective use of a backpack sprayer is dependent upon the training an employee receives when they are issued this equipment.

### Pre-Use Activities

- Thoroughly review and understand information provided in the backpack sprayer operator's manual with particular attention given to descriptions of safety procedures.
- Before using, always inspect the backpack pesticide sprayer tank for damage or disrepair and make sure sprayer hoses, regulator, wand, and nozzle(s) are clean and functioning properly. Pay particular attention for leaks from the sprayer and attachments.
- If a backpack pesticide sprayer fails the pre-use inspection, notify your supervisor and remove the sprayer from service by tagging it out.

### Operating Precautions

- Always wear appropriate personal protection equipment, including eye protection, chemical-resistant gloves, and coveralls and when necessary, chemical-resistant clothing and a respirator.
- Follow instructions on the pesticide label when mixing pesticides for use in a backpack sprayer.
- Due to the weight of a loaded backpack sprayer, be careful when walking or bending. Look where you are stepping and always bend at the knees.
- Due to their inherent hazardous nature, never use flammable liquids, acids, or caustic chemicals such as bleach in a backpack sprayer.
- Relieve sprayer tank pressure through the shut-off valve and spray wand before adjusting the pressure regulation valve or control knob.
- Apply pesticides at the rates recommended by the manufacturer.
- Never point the spray wand in the direction of people or animals.
- Spray tanks, hoses, regulator, wand, and nozzle(s) shall be rinsed thoroughly after each use.

Following use, store the backpack pesticide sprayer out of direct sunlight to prevent ultraviolet radiation damage.

Information for this Safety Tip was taken directly from: "Safety Note"  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

## Backpack Sprayer Safety

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

- |   | True                     | False                    |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Because of the precise application ability of a backpack sprayer, it is not necessary to wear PPE such as gloves and eye protection. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Refer to the sprayer instructions rather than the pesticide label, when looking for mix ratio of the chemicals you will apply.       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Do not attempt to climb a ladder when wearing a backpack sprayer.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Tag out the sprayer, discontinue use and report the need for repair immediately if your sprayer malfunctions.                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Be careful when bending over or walking on uneven surfaces due to the added weight and bulk of the loaded backpack sprayer.          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |