The pest management industry uses a wide variety of pesticide and fumigant products which can potentially cause serious harm to health if they are not managed appropriately. When an incident occurs that may adversely affect human health, the Pest Management Act 2001 requires the PMT must notify Queensland Health of the incident immediately. This guidance note details what information is required to be provided.

What is a Notifiable Incident?

A “notifiable incident” means an exposure, spillage or other release of a pesticide or fumigant that adversely affects, or is likely to adversely affect, a person’s health (including yours).

It is a requirement that notice of a notifiable incident must be given to the chief executive immediately either verbally or in writing.

Notifications can be provided over the phone or in person but these must be followed up by a written notice within seven days from when the incident occurred.

Examples of a notifiable incident

i. accidental exposure of a person to a pesticide or a fumigant during application.

ii. exposure of an employee to a fumigant because of a failure of protective equipment.

iii. the accidental injection of pesticide into a reticulation water supply pipe or service pipe.

iv. spray drift resulting in exposure of a person to the pesticide mist.

What to do when an incident occurs

In the event of an incident, the following steps should be undertaken:

- assess and seek medical advice if required;
- contain any spill to reduce further exposure/contamination; and
- notify Queensland Health.

Queensland Health will be able to provide advice on what other measures may be required to be undertaken to manage the incident and who to contact.

Information required for the notice:

- your Pest Management Technician licence number
- your name, and the name of your business or if you are employed by a business, the name of your employer and contact details
- date, time, address and site specifics where the incident occurred
- description of the incident details, how and what happened, who was involved or affected
- name and active constituent, concentration and volume of the pesticide or fumigant
- names of any persons exposed, type of exposure, first aid received and medical assessment
- the size of the spill, action taken, spill clean-up and disposal of contaminated material
- any other relevant information
It is important to note that even if the incident is being managed by others such as Emergency Services, the Chief Executive Department of Health must still be notified.

Notification of an incident should be made to Queensland Health on the form - Notice of a Notifiable Incident. This form is available online at http://www.health.qld.gov.au/industry/poisons_pest/default.asp or a copy can be obtained by contacting your local Public Health Unit.

If you advise Queensland Health by phone, keep a record of who you spoke to for inclusion in the notice form.

It is considered best practice to keep a copy of this guidance note, a copy of the notice form and your local Public Health Unit contact details as part of your emergency readiness.

Once the notice form has been completed it must be forwarded to your local Public Health Unit or:

Chief Executive
Department of Health
PO Box 2368
Fortitude Valley, 4006

What happens if I don’t comply?

Penalties may apply if you don’t give Notice of a Notifiable Incident to Queensland Health.

Where can I get more information?


All other enquiries can be directed to the Public Health Unit within your local Hospital and Health Service. Contact details for Public Health Units can be found at www.health.qld.gov.au/cho/ or call 33289310 to be transferred to your local PHU.