



Poison HOTLINE

1-800-222-1222

April 2020

*Thank
You*

With deep admiration and gratitude, we thank all of Iowa's healthcare workers and everyone who supports patient care for all you do year-round and especially during this pandemic. We know you are working tirelessly to keep your communities safe and cared for while anticipating and preparing for what's next. We also wish to thank members of the public who have volunteered to assist our healthcare workers and other frontline workers. We appreciate your dedication and the long hours you are putting in to preserve the health of our citizens.

Please stay safe and know we will continue to be here for you, your family and your community 24/7/365.

~The IPCC Staff

GLYPHOSATE-BASED HERBICIDES

Glyphosate herbicides were developed in the 1970's and there are now over 750 glyphosate-based products on market. It is the most purchased herbicide in U.S. agriculture and 2nd most utilized herbicide in garden and home use. Glyphosate is applied to leaves of plants and kills broadleaf plants and grass by preventing plants from making a protein necessary for plant growth.

Glyphosate salts are combined with different stabilizers, surfactants and hydrocarbons in commercial products. Research has shown that many times adverse effects are caused from those stabilizers and surfactants. With the proliferation of glyphosate use, concerns for safety and health have risen.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency states that when used precisely and according to label instructions, glyphosate products are safe to use. Children have not been found to be more sensitive to this chemical when compared to adults.

Follow labeled directions and avoid exposure. If exposure does occur, the symptoms seen from exposure to glyphosate and its added surfactants are:

- Eye or skin irritation from contact with the product itself or spray droplets;
- Nose and throat irritation from inhaling fumes;
- Irritation and/or burns to the mouth and throat from ingestion. Ingestion may also cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and increased salivation.
- Ingestion may result in aspiration of the surfactants and hydrocarbons.

Treatment recommended for exposures include:

- Remove contaminated clothing and wash skin with soap and water.
- Irrigate irritated eyes for 15 minutes with warm water.
- Small amounts of water may be used for dilution after ingestion.
- Irritated oral mucosa can be wiped out and gently irrigated.
- Mild or moderate symptoms can be treated with supportive care along with antiemetics or pain medications as necessary.
- Treatment of severe toxicity entails assessing the need for intubation; correcting electrolyte abnormalities; treating metabolic acidosis, hyperkalemia and renal failure; and treating hypotension.

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