



# The ESD Review

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The ESD Review is now online! (See page 2)



FDA warns about dangerous sanitizer. (see page 4)

## ESD's Pesticide Safety Course to be offered online.

By: Yuma ESD Staff

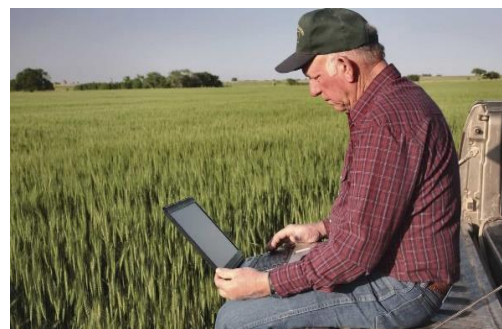
ESD's Associate Director recently approved an online method of providing the WPS Pesticide Safety Trainer Course, also known as Train the Trainer.

ESD's training team will offer the training course online using "Google Meet". Participants must make sure Google Meet is operational on a computer or handheld device. The first online course is scheduled for August 24<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:00 AM. (you must pre-register)

Following the completion of the course, participants will then have to appear in person at a testing site where they must take and pass the exam to become licensed WPS trainers for three (3) years.

Testing for this course will take place in Phoenix the following day and in Yuma on August 26<sup>th</sup>. Testing will be offered in groups of no more than 10 participants, following CDC and Arizona Department of Health Services guidelines. This means that seating will be set-up with a space of at least 6 feet in between. Participants will also be required to wear nose/mouth coverings. The testing on the 25<sup>th</sup>, will be located at the AZDA Headquarters located at 1688 W. Adams Street or this event, in Yuma on the 26<sup>th</sup> at the US Yuma Ag Center located at 6425 W 8<sup>th</sup> Street. If you cannot make one of these testing events you will need to schedule a appointment on your own at one of the AZDA offices.

For more information or to register for this course and stay informed about ESD's training program and future courses, visit: <https://agriculture.az.gov/trainingassistance/pesticide-safety-training/train-trainer-program>



# Our newsletter, *The ESD Review*, now online.

**By: Ernie Lugo, Yuma ESD**

As we work to modernize our way of doing business, our newsletter, The ESD Review will now be available online.

Our customers will be able to view articles as they are added to our upcoming quarterly edition.

We will continue to alert our customers when a new quarterly edition is available by providing a link to The ESD Review on our website.

We ask that you visit [esdreview.com](http://esdreview.com) to view our newsletter and stay informed on an array of ESD related and other agriculture related subjects.



If you have any ideas on information you would like to see on our newsletter, or any other suggestion, please click on "Contact" on the top left section of our newsletter. We also encourage everyone to subscribe to our newsletter to receive alerts when a new article is posted.

## Regulatory questions/COVID-19

**By: Jack Peterson, ESD Associate Director**

We have had questions relating to the worker protection program and training. We have had to cancel or postpone our Train the Trainer program due to the COVID-19 situation. Anyone whose trainer's certificate that has expired since March 1, will be considered certified to continue training until we have the program up and running again. We will need to do some additional TTT courses and we will need to give priority to those folks whose certification would have expired already.

We have also had questions relating to CEUs for credential renewals. As a reminder all credentials expire at the end of the year. (Private applicators need 3 hours, commercial applicators need 6 hours and PCAs need 15 hours to renew for a year.) It is still too early to say we are going reduce the number of CEUs required or delay renewals. There are a lot of courses on-line (all are not free). This could be the new normal with more courses on line and not everything is free. As a reminder the department normally provides a CEU course in the November/December timeframe. This normally provides 6 hours. We are planning on holding this course, whether it be in person or online.

## WPS training during trying times

The health and safety of everyone is a priority for the Arizona Department of Agriculture. As an essential function, the agriculture industry continues to operate to bring food to Americans everywhere, even during these times of uncertainty due to COVID-19.

Ag employers must continue to provide their team members the necessary training to ensure worker and food safety. The Worker Protection Standard (WPS) is a state and federal regulation that requires persons who handle pesticides and those who work where pesticides are applied, be trained on pesticide safety on

on an annual basis.

The EPA recently released guidance on pesticide safety training requirements during COVID-19, as this training continues to be a requirement.

ESD inspectors recently monitored WPS training offered by Griffin Ranches, a grower in Gadsden, AZ. Griffin Ranches provided handler training to 13 employees inside their farm's shop, following CDC guidelines.

ESD encourages Ag employers to use a similar set-up and location when providing required EPA/AZDA Pesticide Safety Training.





# EPA releases guidance regarding respirators during COVID-19 PPE shortages.

The use of crop protection products in Arizona requiring respiratory protection are not as common as they once were but when a respirator is required, it must be used.

The EPA has released guidance for agricultural pesticide handlers and handler employers due to uncertainty about the availability of respiratory protection equipment (and related fit testing services) during the COVID-19 emergency. The full guidance document released by the EPA is available by clicking on this link:

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-06/documents/covid19statementrespirators.pdf>.

However a summary of the document is included below:

Agriculture has been deemed critical infrastructure, and pesticides are a vital tool in agricultural production. Pesticide handlers must wear respiratory protection when a label requires it. By far the most common type of respiratory protection required by pesticide labels is the filtering face-piece respirator (FFR).

EPA offers guidance on acceptable ways to overcome potential shortages of respirators due to heightened healthcare demand.

This guidance is presented as a tiered system; handlers and handler employers must try the solutions from the first list before resorting to options in the other lists.

If the label-required respiratory protection is in short supply or unavailable,

try one or more of the following solutions:

- Use a NIOSH-approved respirator that is equally or more protective than what the label requires.
- Use an alternative pesticide product that does not require respiratory protection to be worn.
- Hire a commercial applicator who has the necessary equipment, fit test, and training.
- When possible, delay pesticide applications until one or more of these compliance solutions are available.

If all the above compliance solutions have been exhausted, several additional options are available. These options are presented in two separate lists. Use the first list if compliant respirators cannot be acquired or are in short supply. Use the second list if compliant fit testing cannot be acquired.

**All of these options can only be used if certain conditions are met. See the full document for details on these conditions.**

If compliant FFRs cannot be acquired or are in short supply, try these options (in order):

1. Use N95 respirators for longer than normally allowed and/or reuse N95 respirators for more than one pesticide application.
2. Use N95 respirators that are past their expiration date.
3. Use FFRs that have been certified in certain other countries. EPA cautions handlers and handler employers to watch out for fraudulent respirators if using this option.

If fit testing cannot be acquired because of COVID-19, try these options:

- Delay annual fit tests.
- Delay fit tests for handlers who have previously been fit tested for an FFR that is equivalent to the one they will wear in 2020.

For more information on respirators you can contact AZDA's Pesticide Safety Consultant, Roberto Rios at 602-542-0985 or via email at: [rios@azda.gov](mailto:rios@azda.gov). For any other questions regarding the Worker Protection Standard, call 928-344-7909.



## EPA releases guidance on Pesticide Safety Training requirements during COVID-19.

By: EPA OPPU

Agricultural workers and pesticide handlers directly support the nation's agricultural production and food supply and EPA is committed to ensuring they are protected from workplace hazards.

EPA has released guidance regarding the annual pesticide safety training requirements outlined in the Agricultural Worker Protection Standard (WPS) that offers flexibility during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The Agency is aware that COVID-19 may make it difficult for agricultural employers and handler employers to provide WPS pesticide safety training or hire agricultural workers and pesticide handlers who have been trained in the last 12 months, as required by the WPS.

In response, the guidance aims to inform agricultural employers and handler employers of flexibilities available under the WPS to allow continued protection for employees and agricultural production:

- EPA encourages in-person training if workplace protections to maintain a healthy work environment are able to be implemented. For example, an employer may be able to provide pesticide safety training outside, in smaller than usual groups with well-spaced participants.
- Alternatively, WPS training can be presented remotely, provided all WPS training requirements are met.
- The employer is ultimately responsible for ensuring the training meets all requirements outlined in the WPS. For example, the training must still be presented in a manner the trainees can understand, in an environment reasonably free from distractions, and cover the full training content using EPA-approved training materials.
- Once the training ends, the employer must document successful completion under a qualified trainer.

To read the guidance in full and to learn more about EPA's Worker Protection Standard, visit [our webpage](#).



# ESD and COVID-19

By: Jack Peterson, ESD Assoc. Dir.

What an unfortunate time we have all been facing. This illness has impacted everyone including the Department of Agriculture, Environmental Services Division. ESD employees, just like everyone, were told to shelter at home as much as possible. This has been an excellent opportunity to get some things done we always wished we had time for. Inspection activities have been kept to a minimal, with the first priority, as always, responding to complaints received. We have had a couple. Every case is being worked on to close them all. Procedures are being documented and then using this for developing a training program for new hires.

Our one new employee is working on getting all the required EPA training completed so that he can ultimately obtain his federal inspector credential. Existing inspectors are also working on the EPA courses they need to maintain their EPA inspector credentials. Federal credentials are needed for: Producer Establishment inspections (places that package and/or label pesticides); any bulk pesticide repackaging facility; and, for any federal related inspections the EPA may forward onto us. In addition, inspectors are still taking calls, responding to emails, and in the Yuma and Tucson offices meeting with our customers for testing or other needs.

On the licensing side of things work continues mostly as normal, although all staff has been telecommuting. The department's IT team was able to cobble together computers and equipment to get them all set up to work at home. On a daily basis three come in to sort and open mail, prepare deposits and scan paperwork to the appropriate person, so the work can be completed at home.

They then make their deposits, do the things they cannot do from home – print and mail, and prepare their own paperwork for working from home the next day. Working from home or the office they are all logged into the phone system just like they are in the office. This has worked with just some minor technical issues.

Until announced otherwise, please do as much work as can be done on-line and via email. If an office visit is necessary, (testing or native plant permitting) make certain to set up an appointment, even in the Phoenix office. Walk-in customers are discouraged. The Phoenix office has limited personnel coming in on a daily basis as well. For the outlying offices there may be no one available. Only 2 people can test at time in Phoenix and 1 in the outlying offices. So if more show up, there will be a wait.

If one customer is being helped, the next customer will have to wait.

Or even if someone shows up without an appointment, but another has been set, the non-appointment person will need to wait.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact:

Jack Peterson at [jpeterson@azda.gov](mailto:jpeterson@azda.gov).

Other contact information you may find helpful:

Licensing - [licensing@azda.gov](mailto:licensing@azda.gov) or 602-542-3578

Robert Tolton, Licensing Supervisor – [rtolton@azda.gov](mailto:rtolton@azda.gov) or 602-255-3652

Jim Steelman, PCI Supervisor – [jsteelman@azda.gov](mailto:jsteelman@azda.gov) or 602-361-7321

Ernesto Lugo, IH Supervisor – [elugo@azda.gov](mailto:elugo@azda.gov) or 928-318-9725

## **Tucson:**

Testing – Brian Kennedy (PMD) – [bkennedy@azda.gov](mailto:bkennedy@azda.gov) or 520-770-3035

Native plants – Scott Schade (ASD) – [sschade@azda.gov](mailto:sschade@azda.gov) or 520-628-6317

## ***FDA Advises consumers not to use hand sanitizing products manufactured by Eskbiochem.***

By: ESD Staff

FDA advises consumers not to use any hand sanitizer manufactured by Eskbiochem SA de CV in Mexico, due to the potential presence of methanol (wood alcohol), a substance that can be toxic when absorbed through the skin or ingested. FDA has identified the following products manufactured by Eskbiochem:

- □ All-Clean Hand Sanitizer (NDC: 74589-002-01)
- □ Esk Biochem Hand Sanitizer (NDC: 74589-007-01)
- □ CleanCare NoGerm Advanced Hand Sanitizer 75% Alcohol (NDC: 74589-008-04)
- □ Lavar 70 Gel Hand Sanitizer (NDC: 74589-006-01)
- □ The Good Gel Antibacterial Gel Hand Sanitizer (NDC: 74589-010-10)
- □ CleanCare NoGerm Advanced Hand Sanitizer 80% Alcohol (NDC: 74589-005-03)
- □ CleanCare NoGerm Advanced Hand Sanitizer 75% Alcohol (NDC: 74589-009-01)
- □ CleanCare NoGerm Advanced Hand Sanitizer 80% Alcohol (NDC: 74589-003-01)
- □ Saniderm Advanced Hand Sanitizer (NDC: 74589-001-01)

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- □ CleanCare NoGerm Advanced Hand Sanitizer 75% Alcohol (NDC: 74589-009-01)
- □ CleanCare NoGerm Advanced Hand Sanitizer 80% Alcohol (NDC: 74589-003-01)
- □ Saniderm Advanced Hand Sanitizer (NDC: 74589-001-01)

FDA tested samples of Lavar Gel and CleanCare No Germ. Lavar Gel contains 81 percent (v/v) methanol and no ethyl alcohol, and CleanCare No Germ contains 28 percent (v/v) methanol. Methanol is not an acceptable ingredient for hand sanitizers and should not be used due to its toxic effects.

Consumers who have been exposed to hand sanitizer containing methanol should seek immediate treatment, which is critical for potential reversal of toxic effects of methanol poisoning.

