Use of Pesticides

1. All persons applying pesticides for OPF shall be certified as a pesticide applicator by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

2. Only qualified OPF personnel should determine what, if any, pesticides should be used after identifying the pest and the amount of infestation.

3. Do not use any chemical before you have been trained on the proper use of that chemical and have read the SDS for that chemical.

4. Know where the Material Safety Data Sheet (SDS) book is kept in your area and how to read an SDS.

5. Always follow the label directions in the use of any pesticide.

6. Always use the pesticide that is considered safest before resorting to a restrictive chemical.

7. Be sure that all containers of chemicals (including spray bottles) are properly labeled with the original label, or a copy of the original label should the original label become unreadable.

8. Store and transport pesticides in their original containers.

9. Do not mix more than what is expected to be used during one shift.

10. Never apply pesticides during windy conditions that may favor drift to undesired areas.

11. Never apply pesticides when the public will be in the area of application before the REI (restricted entry interval) is expired. Follow the label directions as to re-entry procedures.

12. When others are working in the area where a REI is to be applied, they must be informed of the hazards of working in the area where a REI is applied.

13. Signage must be posted while the REI is in use.

14. Always wear the proper PPE, (i.e. clothing, gloves, mask, respirator, eye protection, etc.) when such use is indicated on the label, when mixing solutions, or when directed by your Supervisor.
15. Respirators must be worn when mixing powders and undiluted chemicals.

16. Wash your hands after handling pesticides or pesticide equipment.

17. Wash your hands BEFORE eating, drinking, chewing gum, using tobacco, or using the toilet.

18. Empty and rinse tanks and containers at the end of each shift. Be sure to clean the inside and outside of equipment when you've completed the day's work or if you are changing chemicals.

19. Always rinse or clean spraying equipment in a proper location and dispose of all liquids and residue properly (i.e. use rinse out tank). Proper cleaning of equipment includes:

   a. Cleaning and rinsing equipment at a faucet/hydrant nearest the work area just sprayed on that day. Avoid cleaning and rinsing equipment where water runoff may migrate into a stream, channel, ditch, or storm drain, or at the same location every day.
   
   b. When feasible, collect all rinsate and pour the rinsate back into the water holding tank for the next day's usage.
   
   c. When collection of the rinsate is not feasible, use/spray the rinsate onto areas that would normally be sprayed (e.g., grass in sidewalk cracks, grass in street cracks, etc.).

20. Always triple rinse and punch holes in the bottoms of pesticide containers when the containers are empty.

21. Wash or shower with soap and water, shampoo your hair, and put on clean clothes after work.

22. Cleaning Eyewear and Respirators - Hand-wash reusable respirator face pieces, goggles, face shields and shielded safety glasses. Follow manufacturer's instructions. In general, use mild detergent and warm water to wash the items thoroughly. Rinse well. Wipe dry, or hang in a clean area to air dry.

23. Some items, such as heavy duty boots and rigid hats or helmets, should be washed by hand using hot water and heavy duty detergent.

24. Wash work clothes which may have pesticides on them separately from other clothes before wearing them. Run the washing machine through one cycle empty before washing other clothes.
25. Report all accidents to your Supervisor immediately.

26. Conduct a chemical inventory annually in December.

**Recommended procedure for washing/cleaning most PPE:**

Note: Follow the manufacturer’s cleaning instructions. If the instructions say only to wash the item, or if there are no cleaning instructions, follow the procedure below:

1. Rinse in a washing machine or by hand.

2. Wash in a washing machine, using a heavy duty detergent and hot water for the wash cycle.

3. Wash only a few items at a time to allow plenty of agitation and water for dilution. Use the highest water-level setting.

4. Rinse twice using two cycles and warm water.

5. Use two entire machine cycles to wash items that are moderately to heavily contaminated.

6. Run the washer through at least one more entire cycle without clothing, using detergent and hot water, to clean the machine.

7. Some plastic or rubber items that are not flat, such as gloves, footwear and coveralls, MUST BE WASHED TWICE. Once to clean the outside and a second time after turning the item inside out.

8. Hang the items to dry, if possible. Let them hang for at least 24 hours in an area with plenty of fresh air, preferably outdoors. Do not hang items in enclosed living areas.

9. You may use a clothes dryer for fabric items if it is not possible to hang them to dry, but after repeated use, the dryer may become contaminated with pesticides.