2014

OISC Pesticide Priorities for Lawn and Landscape Operators

1. Respond immediately to OISC inquiries regarding complaints, inspections, licensing or other regulatory issues. It is in your best interest to respond quickly to inquiries from state chemist personnel. Immediate response allows the OISC to resolve complaints in a timely and effective manner. State chemist personnel are trained to inform you if the matter is routine in nature and does not require an immediate response.

2. Use side shields to keep granular pesticides and fertilizers from falling on non-turf areas such as sidewalks, driveways, walks and curbs. Remove any excess product from these areas with brooms or blowers. There may even be local regulations that require you to do this.

3. Supervise unlicensed applicators and registered technicians. Remember non-licensed/non-registered applicators require on-site supervision by a certified applicator. On-site supervision means the physical presence of the supervising certified applicator at the worksite under circumstances that permit continuous direct voice contact with the non-certified individual. Registered technicians don’t require on-site supervision, but must have
   a. a site assessment fact sheet or site specific instructions,
   b. a label for each pesticide product used that day,
   c. any label mandated Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
   d. a means to establish direct voice communication with their supervisor

4. Operate within your license. Determine the type(s) of pesticide application(s) that your company is making or plans to make and then insure that you have personnel certified and licensed in the appropriate category. Remember, treating turf for fleas or other structural invading pests requires a category 7a certification. For specific information on pesticide application categories, go to www.oisc.purdue.edu/pesticide/index.html and click on Applicator Categories.

5. Follow through with licensing after new employees take core or category exams. Many companies forget to submit a license application and fee to the OISC after new employees pass exams.

6. Provide applicator employees with the label mandated Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Have a policy in place that provides escalating penalties for failure to use correct PPE. Know that many common turf herbicides require the applicator to wear a long sleeved shirt, long pants, shoes, socks, chemical resistant gloves and eye protection. Riding on application equipment does NOT lessen the PPE requirements unless specifically stated on the label.