

Disclaimer: This lesson is only for states where the cultivating, manufacturing, distribution, and retail sale of cannabis is legal. Cannabis is illegal under federal law.

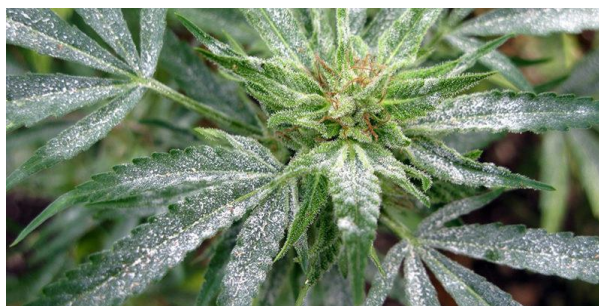
INTRODUCTION

Similar to other types of agricultural work, cannabis employees could potentially be exposed to hazards when working with or around cannabis. Employees who work with cannabis could be exposed to both physical and medical hazards; this includes employees who sell or transport cannabis. Following the safe work practices presented in this lesson will help ensure employee safety.

HAZARDS

When working with or around cannabis, employees could potentially be exposed to some of the following hazards:

- Mold
- Sensitizers or allergens
- Exposure to carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide
- Exposure to pesticides and chemicals
- Cuts or lacerations
- Explosions
- Slips, trips, and falls
- Workplace violence
- Robbery



PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Employees should wear the appropriate personal protective equipment, which may include:

- Safety glasses, goggles, or face shield
 - It is recommended that glasses with UV protection are worn in indoor growing facilities.
- Gloves
- Protective clothing
- Hearing protection
- Respirators
- Close-toed, non-slip shoes
- Wearable Carbon Dioxide monitor





CANNABIS WORKER SAFETY

SAFE WORK PRACTICES

Before working with or around cannabis, employees should do the following:

- Inspect all provided PPE for damage. Report damaged PPE to your supervisor. Do NOT wear damaged PPE.
- Ensure that the floor is free of any slipping or tripping hazards. Remove obstructions as needed.
- Inspect all gas cylinders for leaks or damage. Report damaged or leaking gas cylinders to your supervisor. Do NOT use damaged or leaking gas cylinders.
- Inspect filters in all HVAC and other pieces of equipment. Replace filters as needed.
- Inspect areas where mold could grow. Report mold to your supervisor.
- Ensure that employees are notified about pesticide spraying. Employees should NOT enter areas where pesticides have been sprayed until the area has been deemed safe.
- Ensure that all security procedures are followed.

When working with or around cannabis, employees should do the following:

- Use all pesticides and chemicals in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Do NOT mix different pesticides or chemicals together.
- Read Safety Data Sheets (SDS) whenever you have a question about a pesticide or chemical.
- If a pesticide or chemical gets into the eyes, employees should use the nearest eyewash station for a minimum of 15 minutes. Report the use of an eyewash station to your supervisor. Employees should seek medical attention if eye pain or irritation persists.
- Store all gas cylinders, pesticides, and chemicals in accordance with all local, state, and federal laws.
- Clean up wet floors as soon as possible.
- Use proper ergonomics when lifting or working in areas that require squatting or bending.
- Practice good housekeeping.
- Use local ventilation whenever possible.
- Use Carbon Dioxide and Carbon Monoxide monitors.
- Do NOT use or store dry ice in confined areas, walk-in refrigerators, environmental chambers, or rooms without ventilation.
- Use tools powered by electricity or compressed air whenever possible.
- Do NOT use generators or gasoline powered engines indoors.
- Report all injuries to your supervisor.
 - This includes symptoms of dizziness or persistent headaches.
- Wash your hands before eating, drinking, smoking, or applying cosmetics (including lip balm).
 - It is recommended that employees also wash their face in addition to their hands.
- Ensure that all lockout/tagout procedures are followed when repairing equipment.

CONCLUSION

Working with or around cannabis could potentially expose employees to both physical and medical hazards. Both types of hazards can either be managed or eliminated when proper work procedures are followed. By following the safe work practices presented in this lesson, employees can help minimize their chances of an accident occurring while working with or around cannabis.

