What are pesticides?
Pesticides are any substance used to kill, repel, or control certain forms of plant or animal life that are considered to be pests.

This group includes:
- Insecticides: such as in-home use insect killer sprays, ant and roach sprays and ant and roach bait/motel stations.
- Rodenticides: used to kill rats and mice
- Herbicides: for plant life, including weeds, some fertilizers are combination products with herbicides
- Bactericides: used to kill mold and other bacterial outbreaks

Can pesticides harm me and my family?
Pesticides can be important tools in pest management, but by their nature, pesticides are toxic. Pesticide products can pose risks to humans, animals and the environment. When pesticides are applied according to the label’s directions and using proper protective gear such as gloves and masks, they are usually not a problem. The primary concern is if the product malfunctions, is misused, or if a child or pet gains access to the pesticide.

People and pets can be exposed by:
- drinking/eating the product
- skin exposure, eye exposure
- inhaling the odor/fumes.

How can I prevent exposure to pesticides for me and my family?
- Keep all products in their original containers. Don’t place pesticides (or any other chemical) in a food/beverage container
- Keep pesticides and all chemicals up and away from children and pets
- Read directions carefully for proper use and pay attention to recommendations for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

With any exposure to a person or pet, have the product label handy, and call the Poison Center @ 800-222-1222