

## Does it Really Matter What Herbicide You Use?

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The short answer is YES. Every herbicide has different characteristics, but so do your sites. The question you have to answer is “What is the most appropriate weed-control method for my particular site?”

Considerations include:

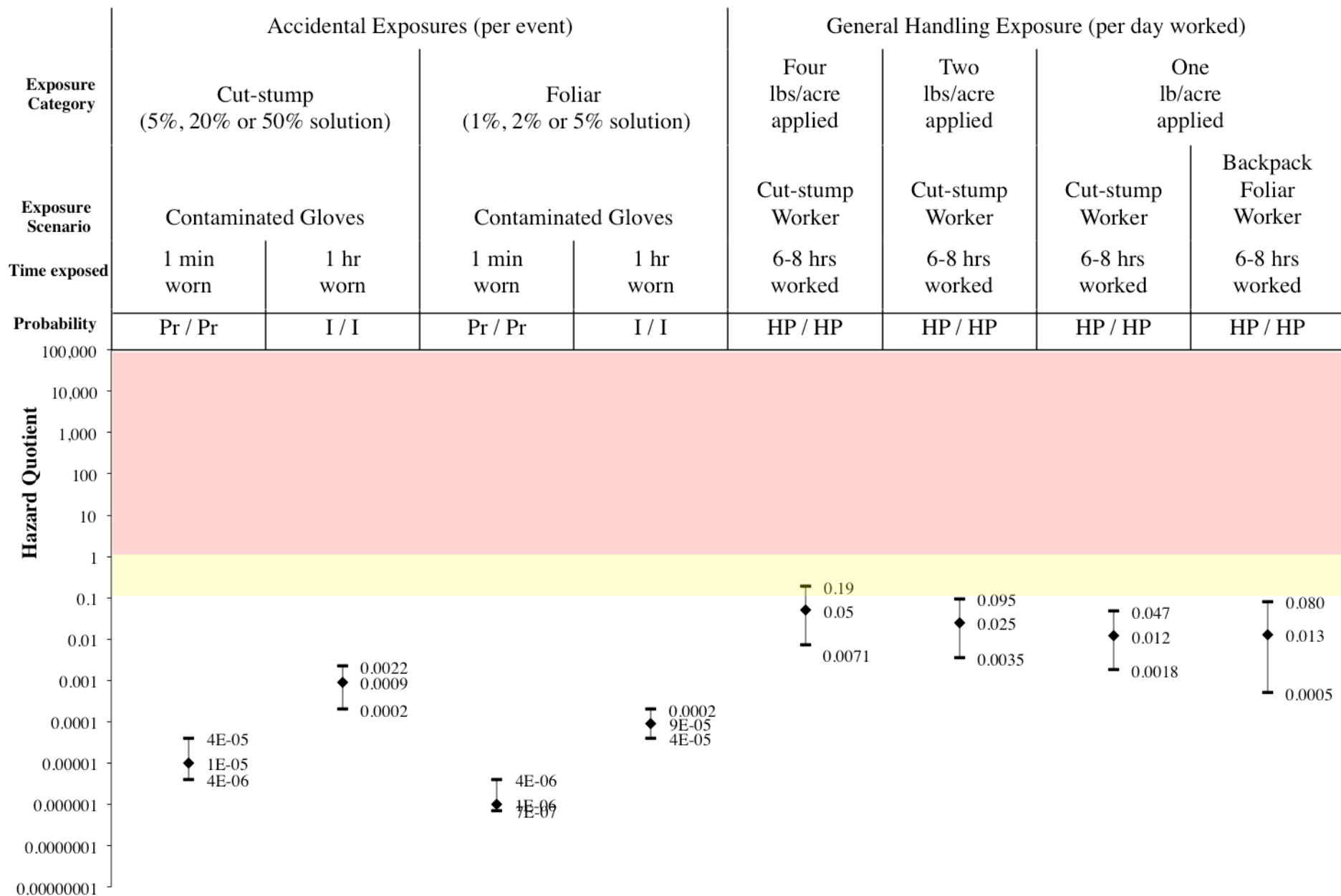
- Is the site near a water body, so that runoff of herbicide is possible?
  - Mobility: Does the herbicide adsorb to soils strongly or weakly?
  - Persistence: How long does it last in the environment?
  - Is the water a drinking water supply?
- Will you be attempting to re-vegetate the site?
  - Persistence: How long does the herbicide last in the environment?
  - Example of Oust applied by BLM for cheatgrass in Idaho
- Are there endangered species (plants or animals) in the area?
  - Toxicity of the herbicide to specific taxa
  - Exposure potential
- Do people live nearby or visit the site frequently?
  - How might they come in contact with the herbicide you apply?
  - How can you prevent this?
- Will the herbicide be effective for the target plant species?
  - Broadleaf vs grasses
  - Deep-rooted vs. seedlings
  - Aquatic vs. terrestrial
- Are there steps you can take to minimize risks?
  - Application timing to avoid nesting season, breeding season, rainy season
  - Posting treated areas to avoid exposures to the general public
  - Using mechanical methods of weed removal near water bodies
  - Targeted treatments vs. broadcast treatments
  - Always wearing PPE and taking precautions to avoid applicator exposure

## Herbicide Risk Comparisons for BMP Manual

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- A comparison of herbicide risks for the primary herbicides used in vegetation management
- Scenarios for applicator exposure, the general public, birds, mammals, fish, aquatic invertebrates, amphibians, aquatic and terrestrial plants.
- Based on the USFS risk assessment methods (developed originally by Syracuse Environmental Research Associates and modified by PRI)

## Estimated Risks for Workers from Glyphosate Exposures



## Estimated Risks for Workers from Triclopyr BEE Exposures

