

EMERGENCY RESPONSE ON THE FARM



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INTRODUCTION

Our farms are located in rural Alberta and that means that emergency responders take longer to reach a victim or farm site that needs assistance. Setting up your emergency response plan is vital to protecting your family, farm workers and your farm.



Setting up your emergency response program is the best thing you can do to help others help you. Understanding what to do before an emergency occurs will provide the farm with the best opportunity to control injuries and minimize damage to your operation.



Emergency response programs can be anything from simple to complicated. So, let's have a look at the key elements of your program.

Here are the steps to QuickStart your: **EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM**



STEPS FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE MANAGEMENT

Evaluate the Types of Emergencies

STEP 1 For your farm, what are the emergency situations that could happen? Build a list of all emergencies that could possibly occur. For example; Structural Fire, Medical Emergency, Work Alone Rescue, Grain Engulfment, Wild Fire, Tornado, Blizzard, Flooding, Fall from Height Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Power Line Contact, Vehicle Incident, etc. For each emergency, develop the response plan and decide who is responsible to get help.

STEP 2 Identify Emergency Response

When one of the identified emergencies happens, what do you do? What does your family do? What do your farm workers do? Go through the process of deciding what your emergency response will be for each type of emergency.

Locate Emergency Equipment

Based on the types of emergencies, develop a plan where you will have emergency response equipment for your farm. Consider the following ideas:

- STEP 3**
- Will each piece of motorized equipment have a first aid kit?
 - Where are your fire extinguishers? What type of fire extinguishers do you need on equipment?
 - Will you have an AED on your farm?
 - How will farm workers rinse their eyes if needed?
 - How will you maintain your emergency response equipment?

Once you have the list, install the equipment and train everyone about where the equipment is stored and how to use it. Also discuss with your family and farm workers how to keep equipment in **ready** condition.



STEP 4

Key Contact Information

When an emergency happens, we have a hard time remembering what numbers to call. Writing down the key contact numbers and posting these where family and farm workers can find them is an important step to any emergency response program. Consider posting contact numbers by the phone, on safety boards, and within each piece of motorized equipment on the farm.

SUMMARY

Emergency preparation is best done sooner than later. Once you have your plan established, check it periodically to ensure that it is current and train your family and your farm workers about the program to help them prepare. When something happens, you will be glad you had a plan in place.

Emergency Response Form

Farm Emergency Response Contact Plan



Farm Site: <i>Main Farm</i>			
Farm Location: <i>Blue Sign Number: 612029</i>			
Emergency Evaluation			
Emergency	Emergency Response	Equipment	
<i>Fire</i>	<i>Evacuate the area and assemble at the front gate call fire department for assistance</i>	<i>Cell phone Fire Extinguisher Shovels Water truck Water Pump</i>	
<i>First Aid</i>	<i>Notify first aid worker</i>	<i>First aid kit</i>	
<i>Medical</i>	<i>Notify first aid worker. call ambulance to main farm and meet to take to <u>injured</u></i>	<i>Cell phone First Aid Kit Blankets</i>	
<i>Tornado</i>	<i>Meet in basement of main farm house. call fire department for assistance.</i>	<i>Cell phone Flashlight Blankets Dust masks</i>	
<i>Spills</i>	<i>Contain the spill with dirt or spill equipment. Remove contaminated soil and dispose Dispose all contaminated garbage in proper bin. Notify government environment department (if needed).</i>	<i>Spill Kit Chemical Gloves Apron Face Shield Respirator</i>	
<i>Missing Worker</i>	<i>Call missing worker cell phone – if no answer, send someone out to check on their last location if needed, get neighbours to help. if worker is still missing, call police to assist with search</i>	<i>Cell phones Radios</i>	
Key Contact Information			
Contact	Number	Contact	Number
<i>RCMP</i>	<i>911</i>	<i>John (Farm Mgr)</i>	<i>1-780-2223-2121</i>
<i>Fire House</i>	<i>911</i>	<i>Peter (First Aider)</i>	<i>1-780-333-2222</i>
<i>Hospital</i>	<i>1-555-555-5555</i>	<i>STARS</i>	<i>1-888-224-4422</i>
<i>AB Environment</i>	<i>1-888-445-5555</i>		

LET IT GROW FEED THE PROGRAM

With your emergency plan started, allow for changes and updates at least annually. Each year, make certain to revisit your plan and consider updates and improvements as your farm changes. Here are some quick points to consider:

- Build a map of your main farm sites. Include information that will tell the emergency response team about danger areas on your farm, for example: fuel storage, chemical storage, open pits, electrical contacts and gas lines. This will protect responders that rally to your assistance.
- Build a collection of emergency drills for each type of emergency in your plan. Plan to hold drill exercises or table top reviews with all farm workers to ensure that everyone knows what to do.
- Set up emergency stations for each yard site and include site maps, emergency contact information and emergency response plans. Equip the stations at the entrance to the yard and mark with a sign for everyone to see.
- List all the land operated by the farm and provide directions from the main yard site. This will help emergency response personnel to find you when needed.



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AgSafe Alberta Resources

Our AgSafe website contains a lot of information for you to use. Here are some examples of information that you can find there to download.

- Hazard Management QuickStart
- Fatigue Management on the Farm QuickStart
- Working at Heights on the Farm QuickStart
- Confined Space Worker QuickStart
- Risk Management System Information

BE SURE TO VISIT
www.AgSafeAB.ca
 FOR MORE INFORMATION



RESOURCES

Albert Emergency Management Agency - <http://www.aema.alberta.ca/personal-emergency-preparedness>
Emergency

Preparedness for Farm Animals - <https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/frm-nmls/index-en.aspx>

Alberta Poultry Industry - <http://www.chicken.ab.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/emergency-preparedness-information.pdf> Canadian

Agricultural Safety Association - <https://casa-acsa.ca/sites/default/files/2.6%20Emergency%20Plan.pdf> Alberta Water

Portal - <http://albertawater.com/stay-safe/emergency-preparedness/rural-community-flood-preparation>

FORMS

Emergency Response Plan Form

Incident Review Form

Hazard ID Form

Fall Protection Plan Form



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Disclaimer – These documents have been designed to assist the farm with a quick introduction to safety at the farm gate. To comply with legislation, farm management will need to evaluate legislation in your local jurisdiction and seek the advice of a safety professional to help you meet regulatory requirements that apply to your specific farming operation.