

FARM EMERGENCY AND DISASTER PLANNING



A disaster is considered a catastrophic event — an incident that is beyond the scope where individual, local, and community resources can deal with the event as an emergency. There are two types of disasters, natural and man-made.

- Natural: tornadoes, hurricanes, wildfires, floods, severe winter storms, severe dust storms, lightning strikes, earthquakes.
- Man-made: wildfires, explosions or fires, animal handling incidents, grain entrapments, power failures, rotating and moving equipment incidents (PTO shafts, conveyors/augers), chemical releases or spills, amputations, vehicle accidents, workplace violence, accidental poisoning, acts of terrorism.

Plan for disasters to be better prepared for these unexpected instances. Disaster preparedness begins with awareness, but requires vigilance and planning. Partner with your local emergency responders to limit property damage and potential loss of life.

- Know the warning signals for your area
- Stay alert for emergency broadcasts
- Put together emergency supply kits for your family and business
- Draw and maintain a farm site map
- Make a list of your farm inventory
- Keep a list of emergency phone numbers
- Have supplies needed to protect your farm on-hand
- Identify areas to relocate your assets
- Prepare your employees
- Invite emergency responders to your site for pre-planning activities

Roles and responsibilities

An important part of a disaster plan is to have clearly defined roles and responsibilities to avoid chaos and confusion. Meet with the leadership on the farm, assess various emergency scenarios, and assign specific duties to personnel.

Maps

Have an aerial or hand-drawn map of your farm to assist first responders. Label all key components of your operation and specifically mark areas that have chemicals and fuel. Additionally, maps marked with evacuation routes and designated meeting areas should be available to employees throughout your facility.

Emergency contacts

Have a list of emergency contacts available to all employees. Make sure they are clearly recorded and review periodically to ensure they are still accurate.

Livestock relocation

Consider making a list of items that will be needed if an evacuation of your livestock is needed. Pre-plan your livestock relocation, delivery of food and water, and veterinary services.

Training

Train all employees on disaster drills. Mock drills can be useful to assess if your team is ready to handle emergency situations.

Learn more at secura.net/safety-resources



Farm Emergency and Disaster Planning

Resources

Are the following documents available in written form and accessible to all employees, including in vehicles?

Emergency contacts list

- Call 911 for all medical and fire emergencies
- Fire department
- Police department
- Veterinary services
- Poison control hotlines (human and animal)
- Department of Natural Resources
- Insurance agent
- Utility companies (power, water, gas)
- Vendors and suppliers
 - Livestock transport
 - Milk hauler
 - Feed delivery
 - Fuel delivery

Maps of farm operations

- Aerial view with building and hazard substance identification
- Location of power shut-offs
- Evacuation routes and designated meeting areas
- Alternate access routes for emergency personnel

Persons on premise

- Employee schedule
- Sign-in/sign-out for guests

Inventory lists

- Livestock
- Feed
- Crops (acres and type)
- Machinery and equipment
- Hazardous chemicals
 - Pesticides
 - Fertilizers
 - Fuels
 - Bulk chemicals

Emergency power generation

- Readily available, with staff knowledgeable in start-up
- Preventative maintenance performed regularly
- Rapid shut-down procedures in place

Emergency medical procedures

- Internal designated emergency response team
- Staff first aid/CPR trained
- Staff trained on proper use of fire extinguishers
- Procedures in place for employees waiting for EMT/fire response

Livestock contingency plan

- Reserve feed
- Alternative water source/delivery
- Animal relocation
 - High ground on your property
 - Neighboring location
 - Transport available

Data back-up/Record duplication

- Procedures in place for handling important records
 - Emergency back-up
 - Evacuating written records
 - Accessing cloud-based services

Debris removal

- Procedures in place for removing debris
- Contact information for local contractor available

Employee training

- Employees receive training
 - At hire
 - Upon role change
 - When written plan is changed
 - Periodic refresher training

Annual review

- Plans should be reviewed annually for accuracy
- Written lists, maps, and procedures must be updated when contacts, operations, equipment, and/or the site is changed

For additional information and safety resources, please contact your risk manager.

This program is provided by SECURA Insurance Companies as a guide. It is your responsibility as the company adopting these suggestions to ensure they follow all local, state, and federal regulations for your industry. Additionally, the information provided may not apply to all companies. The following program may need to be modified to fit your operations and will need to be reviewed periodically to assess if updates are needed.