



## Workplace Safety

### EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN (EAP)

Farms, like most workplaces, face unexpected emergencies and disasters. Agricultural emergencies and disasters can be natural or man-made. To help lessen the impact of these events, employers and farm managers should develop and exercise an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) that prepares workers to react to and handle emergencies and disasters before they occur. An EAP identifies and organizes employer and worker responsibilities in preparation for and when responding to a workplace emergency or disaster. Developing and implementing an EAP can lessen confusion, decrease injuries, and limit destruction of property during and after a disaster or other emergency.

### AGRICULTURAL EMERGENCIES

#### Natural

- Tornadoes
- Hurricanes
- Wildfires
- Floods
- Severe Winter Storms
- Severe Wind / Dust Storms
- Lightning Strikes
- Earthquakes

#### Man-made *(not an exhaustive list)*

- Moving Equipment Incidents
- Explosions or Fires
- Animal Handling Incidents
- Grain Entrapments
- Falls
- Chemical Releases or Spills
- Lacerations or Amputations
- Vehicle Incidents (e.g. Rollovers)

An EAP should be reviewed with each worker when the plan is developed, a new worker is hired, or a worker's responsibilities under the plan change. At minimum, an EAP should include:

- Emergency escape procedures and routes.
- Procedures to account for workers.
- Procedures for workers to remain on-site after notification of an emergency
- Duties for workers designated to perform rescue and medical functions.
- The preferred means for reporting emergencies.
- Contact(s) for further information or explanation of duties under the plan.

All workers should be trained in the following areas:

- Evacuation Plans
- Alarm Systems
- Reporting Procedures
- Shutdown Procedures
- Types of Potential Emergencies
- Location of Emergency Equipment/First-Aid

**NOTE:** At least one person or persons should be adequately trained to render first-aid and basic first-aid supplies should be available and properly stocked. Emergency numbers should also be posted in visible places, inside farm vehicles, and on telephones.



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### HEALTH & SAFETY HAZARDS ON FARMS

Every year, thousands of farms workers are injured and hundreds more die in farming accidents. In fact, according to the National Safety Council, agriculture is one of the most (if not THE MOST) hazardous industries in the nation. Farm workers, including farm families and migrant workers, are exposed to hazards such as:

- Chemicals/Pesticides
- Cold
- Dust
- Electricity
- Grain Bins
- Hand Tools
- Highway & General Traffic
- Lifting
- Livestock Handling
- Machinery/Equipment
- Manure Pits
- Mud
- Noise
- Ponds
- Silos
- Slips/Trips/Falls
- Sun/Heat
- Toxic Gases
- Tractors
- Wells

### IMPROVING FARM SAFETY

Oftentimes you can significantly decrease the risk of illness and injuries on the farm by taking some the following steps and conducting a Farm Safety Needs Assessment:

- Increase awareness (for all employees and managers) of farming hazards and prepare for emergency situations with an Emergency Action Plan (EAP).
- Be alert to hazards that may affect children and the elderly as on-farm injury rates are highest among children age 15 and under and adults over 65.
- Minimize hazards by carefully selecting the products you buy, especially if purchasing used products, to ensure that you provide good tools and equipment.
- Maintain good housekeeping practices, especially in areas of high traffic and where tools or dangerous substances are kept.
- Read and follow instructions in equipment operator's manuals and on product labels.
- Make sure that all farm employees are trained in recognizing prolonged exposure to extreme weather and proper preventative measures.
- Ensure that the proper machine guards are in place on equipment and that regular inspections and maintenance of equipment and machinery is being conducted in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.
- Install approved rollover protective structures, enclosures, or frames on tractors.
- Use proper personal protective equipment like seatbelts, goggles, ear plugs, etc.

This information and other resources can be found by visiting [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov) and [thelandconnection.org/resources](http://thelandconnection.org/resources)