



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Unexpected emergencies and disasters can impact any property, including hobby farms. These can include natural and man-made disasters such as flooding, blizzard/severe winter storm, hurricane/severe thunderstorm, fire/lightening strike, drought, power failures, and chemical releases or spills.

DISASTERS AND EMERGENCIES SUCH AS THESE CAN HAVE DETRIMENTAL IMPACTS ON YOUR HOBBY FARM AND THE ENVIRONMENT IF NOT MANAGED PROPERLY.



The best way to prepare for such emergencies is to have an established emergency preparedness plan with response procedures in place prior to any emergency situation. Before a disaster or emergency be sure to:

- ✓ Know the warning signals in your area
- ✓ Be informed by following emergency alerts through radio, tv, internet or cell phone
- ✓ Have an emergency supply kit in place
- ✓ Know where vulnerable areas are, such as low lying areas subject to flooding, material storage areas, etc.
- ✓ Make a list of farm inventory including animals, equipment, and hazardous materials
- ✓ Keep an updated list of emergency phone numbers
- ✓ Keep a copy of your insurance coverage
- ✓ Stockpile supplies such as food for humans, feed for animals, water, fuel, lumber, sandbags, plastic sheeting, fire extinguishers and first aid kits
- ✓ Have an evacuation plan that includes an escape route and plan for moving animals if needed
- ✓ Identify areas to relocate animals, equipment, feed, fuel, generators and hazardous materials
- ✓ Identify an alternate water and power source if available and source of fire water if needed by the fire department if you are in a rural area and no fire hydrants are accessible
- ✓ Consider developing an informal mutual aid agreement with your neighbors to lend support to each other in the event of an emergency

At a minimum, your emergency management plan should be written down and stored in several accessible areas throughout your home and hobby farm, should there be an emergency. All members of your family should be familiar with the contents and practices contained in it.

Simple worksheets have been provided at the end of this section with several adapted from www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/animal-health/farm-emergency-plan for your convenience. Consider using them to help develop your Emergency Management Plan.



CAUTION!

Portable generators are commonly used to provide electricity during emergencies that result in a power failure. However, operating a generator incorrectly can create a carbon monoxide, fire and/or electrical hazard that can be deadly to you or a repairman working on the lines. Visit the following link for tips on portable generator safety: www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_Hurricane_Facts/portable_generator_safety.pdf

CLEARLY POST AN EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION IN A READILY ACCESSIBLE LOCATION. THIS SHOULD INCLUDE EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION FOR FIRST RESPONDERS, UTILITIES AND PEOPLE WHO MAY BE ABLE TO HELP YOU IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY.

HOBBY FARM MAP

If you haven't already done so as part of Section 3, create a map of your hobby farm. On a piece of blank paper (or graph paper if you have it) draw a simple map of your property that includes the relative location of structures, animal yards/pens, storage areas, access routes, barriers/fences, crops, pastures, nearby surface waters, drinking water well, utilities (if known), main electrical and gas shutoffs, fuel tanks including liquid propane, catch basins and the location of emergency supplies. Keep an evacuation route map with your hobby farm map.

TYPES OF EMERGENCIES AND RESPONSE PROCEDURES

List potential emergency situations that could occur in your area and the steps you will take to address the emergency. Proper emergency preparedness and response can help reduce and/or prevent harm to your family, animals, crops, and nearby water resources.

HOBBY FARM INVENTORY

Depending on the size of your hobby farm, be sure to keep an updated inventory of animals, feed locations, hazardous materials, equipment and crops. Keep in mind that you may not be present when an emergency occurs on your property, or may have a lot on your mind making it difficult to recall the details of your hobby farm. Having a list will also make it easier for a neighbor or other friend to check on things while you're not around.

EMERGENCY SUPPLIES AND SPILL KIT

Gather supplies to address a variety of emergency situations and develop a checklist/inventory of these materials and their locations. Additionally, keep a stocked spill response kit near your hazardous material storage and readily accessible in case of spills. Spill response materials should include several bags of sand, kitty litter, or other absorbent material, along with access to shovels and large containers such as trash barrels.

KEEP SPILL RESPONSE MATERIALS IN A CLOSED, STURDY PLASTIC STORAGE CONTAINER LABELED "SPILL KIT". STORE IN A READILY ACCESSIBLE LOCATION NEAR CHEMICAL STORAGE.

Recommended Supplies:

- ✓ Safety splash goggles or face shield
- ✓ Chemical-resistant coveralls
- ✓ Unlined, chemical-resistant gloves
- ✓ Chemical-resistant boots
- ✓ Broom and dustpan
- ✓ Hazardous material storage bags
- ✓ Absorbent material such as oil absorbent, cat litter, activated charcoal or sawdust
- ✓ Absorbent pads for water, oil or solvent based chemicals
- ✓ Absorbent boom
- ✓ Drums/bucket/trashcan

HELPFUL LINK

The following link provides some very useful information for emergency preparedness and even though it is for larger farms in rural communities, the information provided can easily be adapted for even the smallest urban hobby farm: www.prep4agthreats.org/All-Hazard-Preparedness/farm-emergency-preparedness-plan

