



## Virginia Farm Emergency Plan

*Authored by Livvy Priesser, Unit Coordinator and Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Isle of Wight County, Virginia Cooperative Extension*

### What is a Farm Emergency Plan and why should you create one?

The purpose of a Farm Emergency Plan is to help agricultural operations proactively prepare for management of unexpected hazardous situations. A thorough and current Farm Emergency Plan can help minimize first responder response times and assist with site location accuracy during an emergency. Farm Emergency Plans should be utilized as well communicated training tools for operational employees, family members, etc. If done properly, a Farm Emergency Plan could be one of the most effective and invaluable tools to have around.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics found that agriculture activities are among the 34 deadliest jobs in the United States. Farming is a hazardous job and in 2019, Virginia reported three fatalities throughout the state due to farm incidents according to Virginia Farm Bureau. Our program team has put together resources to help encourage farm safety and wellness for all farm families by compiling a Farm Emergency Plan to help farmers ensure they are prepared in the event of an on-farm emergency.

### Where should you store your plan?

Once you have thoroughly completed a Farm Emergency Plan, it is important that all necessary parties are provided convenient access. The plan should be stored in multiple locations and be available in various formats if possible. Suggested places include in the tractor(s), combine(s), truck(s), pesticide storage shed, office, and/or any other central location where employees congregate. Laminating or keeping the plan in a binder/folder will help with the durability of the plan. It is important to share this information with employees, family members, and local first responders (police, EMS, and fire). If the operation is multilingual, all should be covered in the plan. Lastly, the plan should be updated annually and reviewed with new employees.

### Who should have access to it?

All farm employees and family members should have access to this plan. This plan should be kept in several different locations for easy access. We also suggest sharing this plan with your local first responders as well.

The following is a template:

**Farm Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Completed:** \_\_\_\_\_

### About the Farm

Farm Employers	Name	Phone Number	Email
Owner/Manager			
Vice President/Manager			
Other Workers			

**If you have an emergency, call 911. If 911 does not work, please contact:**

Departments	Contact Numbers
Local Fire Department	
Local Emergency Medical Services	
Sheriff	
Animal Control	
Virginia State Police	(800) 674-2000
Local Hospital	
Local or Family Doctor	
Veterinarian (Small and Large Animal)	
Local VDACS Pesticide Investigator	
Virginia Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)	(804) 786-3501
VDACS Pesticide Division	(804) 786-3798
Virginia Poison Control	(800) 222-1222
National Response Center	(800) 424- 8802
National Suicide Prevention Line	(800) 273-8255

## Directions to the farm from all major highways/roads

Include a map of your farm with fields or land worked highlighting major landmarks. Inc.

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## Specific Numbers for your operation

Departments	Contact Numbers
Fire Department/Chief	
EMS/EMS Coordinator	
Gas Company	
Electric Company	
Farm Mechanic	
Chemical Dealer	
Equipment Dealer	
Local Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent	
Loan Officer	
Insurance Agent	
Farm Service Agency	
Family Doctor	
Family Therapist	
Other	
Other	

## Farm Operation - Primary Contact Information

Name	
Address	
Daytime Phone Number	
Nighttime Phone Number	
Email	
Other?	

## Farm Operation- Secondary Contact Information

Name	
Address	
Daytime Phone Number	
Nighttime Phone Number	
Email	
Other?	

## Farm Site

Farm Physical Address	
Farm GPS Coordinates	
Chemical Storage Address	
Other	

# What else should I know or include in my emergency plan?

- **Operation Layout**

Please include a map or layout of the operation in the plan. Include all land owned, rented, or worked with all the main highways marked. If you operate a U-pick or agritourism operation, it would be helpful to share these layouts with local first responders (fire, EMS, and police). Please mark all major landmarks on the map such as ponds, chemical storage, septic/wastewater, powerlines, grain bins/silos, first aid kits, fire extinguishers, and any other needed emergency documentation.

- **E911 Addresses**

Include all E911 addresses of your farm and rented land within your plan.

- **Walkthroughs**

It is always good to do frequent operational checks and document if/when deficiencies are addressed.

- **Updating Records**

Make sure the plan is updated annually! Update all numbers to reflect any changes in businesses, veterinarians, etc. Also, update locations of farm land or rented land to reflect safe entrances, etc.

- **CPR and First Aid**

**If any employee is trained in CPR or first aid, please add that to your plan.**

- **Medical Requirements**

If any employee has specific medical requirements, please address that as well (latex, asthma, food or medicine allergies, etc.).

- **Customize**

This farm emergency plan is very basic, so please customize to your operation and your needs.

**For questions about how to use or update your farm emergency plan, please contact Livvy Preisser at [livvy16@vt.edu](mailto:livvy16@vt.edu) or 757-365-6261.**

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