Do You Have An Incidence Response Plan?

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In the event of a pesticide and/or fertilizer release incident, preparedness will be your best defense to protect individuals and the environment.

With the onset of winter and consequently the easing of our heavy schedules, it may be a good time to tune up your existing Incidence Response Plan, or create one. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture recommends that at a minimum, you revise and update your plan annually, for in the event of an incident, quick and decisive action is a must.

Listed below is a suggested format for an Incidence Response Plan from the MDA. Remember that you may also access more detailed information in your MGCSA Environmental Guide.

Suggested Format For An Incidence Response Plan

1) Emergency response contact list.
   a. Facility personnel
   b. Other facilities familiar with site
   c. Emergency assistance
   d. Major chemical company representatives

2) Product labels.
   A complete copy for each pesticide and fertilizer product stored at the facility.

3) Product material safety data sheets (MSDS)
   A complete copy for each pesticide and fertilizer product stored at the facility.

4) First aid information

5) Prefire planning
   Invite local fire department to inspect facility annually. Familiarize them with the facility and its storage areas as well as drainage at and adjacent to the facility; brief them on precautions and tactics for fighting agricultural chemical fires, and provide them with names and numbers of persons to be contacted in case of fire.

6) Maps
   a. Map of facility that includes:
      (1) Buildings;
      (2) Pesticide/fertilizer storage areas;
      (3) Mixing, loading and rinsate recycling areas;
      (4) Vehicle parking and washing areas;
      (5) Sanitary sewer inlets, storm sewer inlets and outlets, tile inlets and outlets; and
      (6) Wells.
   For wells within 150 feet of any existing or proposed loading (rinse pad) and secondary containment (diked) areas, include the year installed and depth.

b. Facility map key and scale.

c. Map of surrounding area.

d. Surrounding area map key.

7) Use and handling procedures.
   Procedures should thoroughly detail the facility’s pesticide/fertilizer handling practices and rinsate use, including container rinsing and disposal methods and equipment (e.g. type of backflow prevention device being used).

8) Emergency equipment and supplies for pesticide and fertilizer incidents.
   a. Identify available, working personal protective equipment and supplies. Specify location(s) at facility where these materials are stored.
   b. Identify available, working emergency equipment and supplies. Specify location(s) at facility where these materials are stored.
   c. List of emergency contractors.

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9) Release procedures.
Thoroughly describe the facility’s pesticide and/or fertilizer release response procedures and practices, including use and/or disposal of spilled materials.

10) Anhydrous Ammonia (NH3) procedures.
Identify NH3 equipment and specify location of this equipment at the facility.

11) Anhydrous Ammonia (NH3) equipment.
Thoroughly describe procedures and practices for handling NH3 and dealing with releases.

12) Employee release response training.
Document employee name and date they completed training.

13) Date last revised/updated.
The incidence response plan must be kept current. It should reflect any changes in storage, handling or disposal practices and procedures. This is especially important when there are frequent changes in personnel, product being stored and/or site safeguards. The MDA recommends that, at a minimum, you review and update your plan annually.

As stewards of the environment, we as members of the MGCSA work very hard to make sure that an accident does not happen. Preparedness and organization for the ever-looming potential of an accident is one thing, but our greatest strengths and efforts should be focused on prevention of a spill incident. To continue strong, judicial prudence with our pesticides will help us all in the future.

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