



Introduction

All farms have materials with the potential to harm people and the environment. Each farm needs an action plan to deal with spills, releases and other emergencies. The goal of this bulletin is to help you with the planning process. If your farm operation has a safety and emergency plan in place, you can decrease your chances of serious injury and environmental damage.

By filling out pages 6-13 and sending in the post-cards from this bulletin, you will have accomplished three objectives:

1. Prepared a basic farm emergency plan.
2. Complied with the federal requirements for reporting under SARA Title III (Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act).
3. Put together the information necessary for the **Michigan Emergency Tube**, if your community participates.

Why do you need an emergency plan?

Most farm chemical users are knowledgeable in the safe use and handling of chemicals, but few are prepared to manage an accidental pesticide or fertilizer spill, release or fire. Quick, positive action is needed to minimize the effects on humans, animals and the environment. Incidents involving farm chemicals may range from a few leaking containers to vehicle accidents, fires or large spills. You must know your responsibilities, your options for action, and the laws and guidelines governing a spill or release.

Developing an emergency plan for your entire farm has many benefits:

1. You will learn more about your farm chemicals and how to handle accidents involving them.
2. Even if you are not present, others will be able to follow the plan to manage emergency situations.
3. By keeping a copy of the plan in the Michigan Emergency Tube, you will be providing critical information for your local emergency first responders.
4. It can help meet your obligations under SARA Title III.

What is SARA Title III?

The original Superfund Act (the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act—CERCLA) was passed in 1980 to clean up the nation's hazardous waste sites. In 1986, the Superfund Act was expanded. The expansion is known as the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act

(SARA). Title III of SARA created a nationwide program—the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA) to provide information on extremely hazardous substances that are present within a local community.

What you must do to comply with SARA Title III:

1. Report stored chemicals. You must report to the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) and the local emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) if you have on site certain substances called extremely hazardous substances (EHS), many of which are pesticides (see Table 1, page 16). Each chemical has a threshold planning quantity (TPQ). If you have the chemical at or above this quantity, you must report even if you have the chemical on site only during application or if it is custom applied. Use the enclosed post-cards for reporting to the State Emergency Response Commission and the Local Emergency

Planning Committee. If SARA Title III applies to your farm, it will become part of a list maintained by the state and provided to communities so local emergency responders will know about the presence of extremely hazardous substances. The postcards can also be used to take your name off the list if SARA Title III no longer applies to you.

2. Provide information to the Local Emergency Planning Committee. Once you report by post-card that you have extremely hazardous substances, the Local Emergency Planning