



Comprehensive Emergency Action Plan Guidance

An Emergency Action Plan provides pertinent information and steps for a dairy to follow if an emergency should occur.

Examples of Emergencies to include in an Emergency Action Plan

1. Employee Injury
2. Biosecurity
3. Natural disasters (example: fire, blizzard, tornado, lightning, drought)
4. Temperature extremes (example: excessive heat or cold)
5. Contagious disease outbreak (example: FMD, feed contamination)
6. Power failure
7. Manure spills

Priorities in Time of Emergency

1. Safety of people
 - a. Evacuation of injured
 - b. Prevention for any further or additional injury of others
2. Protection of livestock and property
 - a. Shut down of systems
 - b. Movement of cattle to designated location or alteration of existing location with the ability to address the emergency

Examples:

1. Heat Stress: Providing additional water, addition of cooling mechanisms (shade, fans, cooling systems) and reduce density.
2. Cold Stress: Bringing cattle in to sheltered areas, providing additional feed and water.
3. Clean Up
 - a. Removal of hazardous materials or debris
4. Restoration of Operations

Emergency Action Plans should

1. Identify potential emergency situations
2. Include the following components for each potential emergency situation:
 - a. What actions should be taken in an emergency situation?
 - b. For each action, designate the people in charge of performing those actions
 - c. Individuals given authority to perform specific action when emergency occurs
 - d. Communication flow for quick and accurate information share



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- e. Data and information related to: site, utilities, evacuation routes, road conditions, equipment/materials involved, injuries, and locations of resources.
 - f. Emergency supplies and equipment
 - g. Training and documentation of the training on the execution of the emergency plan for all involved including employees and first responders
 - h. Response scenarios options
 - i. Sheltering in place
3. All animals and personnel remain at farm through disaster event where farm becomes self-contained

Farm Evacuation Procedures

1. On-site, animals are relocated to safer area on the farm
2. Off-site, animals are relocated off-site to a safer location that can provide feed, water and shelter necessary

Key Contacts to Include in an Emergency Action Plan

1. Farm owner/manager
2. Local community dairy farm owners/managers
3. Veterinarian
 - a. Investigation of any cause of death in animals
4. Nutritionist
5. Milk cooperative/processor field representative and hauler
6. Milk equipment and machinery dealers
7. State agencies i.e. Department of Agriculture, Board of Health
 - a. Reporting catastrophic death loss
 - b. Permission to bury or compost lost animals
8. Local authorities (police, fire station, etc.)
9. Local medical organizations (hospital, EMT, etc.)

In Best Practice, Dairy Farms Have the Following Items in Place to Prepare For an Emergency

1. Training and cross-training programs for employees
2. Emergency contact list posted throughout the facility
3. Back-up power and fuel
4. Fail-safe alarms that are routinely checked and have sufficient back up alarms
5. Water supply back up for 2-3 days minimum



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6. Feed supply back up for 2-3 days minimum
7. Emergency releases on gates, pens and barns for rapid exit if necessary
8. Humane euthanasia protocol
9. Animal identification
10. Necessary equipment for evacuation (trailer, trucks, tractors, fire extinguishers, etc.)
11. Insurance on buildings and cattle

References

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2. Progressive Dairyman. "Emergency preparedness on dairy farms." August 20, 2014. Accessed May 23, 2017. www.progressivedairy.com/topics/management/emergency-preparedness-on-dairy-farms
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