

Severe Storm Emergency Response Procedure²⁰

List who to call:

- Call 911 or local emergency response coordinators, at numbers below:

- Fire _____

- Ambulance _____

- Police _____

- Speak clearly and provide the location of the accident or emergency.
- Describe any victim(s) and the nature of any injuries.
- Contact other farm people as appropriate (owners, managers, employees, and neighbors) for additional assistance with injuries or providing back-up equipment, power, feed or water.

For livestock and buildings, list what steps or activities should be taken and, if applicable, who is responsible:

- Wear sturdy boots and shoes when venturing outdoors after a severe storm.
- Be aware animal behavior may change before, during and even after a severe storm.
- Survey the outside and inside of your barns and other structures for structural damage, sharp objects, downed power lines, damaged gas lines, or other hazards. Assess the stability and safety,
- Examine your animals closely; contact your veterinarian if you observe injuries.
- Gather and dispose of trash, limbs, wire and damaged equipment that could harm livestock outdoors.
- Be aware of hazards that may cause injury to you or others cleaning up - these can include chain saw injuries, electrical or chemical hazards.
- Do not touch downed power lines or objects in contact with downed lines. Report electrical hazards to the police and the utility company.
- Provide clean, uncontaminated water.
- Do not feed flood damaged or moldy feed or hay.
- Do not use any feed or forage that may have been contaminated by chemical or pesticides.
- Account for all livestock, fuels, chemicals, machinery and equipment; use the inventory list prepared prior to the incident.
- Record any animal deaths.
- Dispose of dead carcasses using proper deadstock disposal methods.
- Check machinery and equipment for damage.
- After winter storms, if excessive snow accumulates on roofs or a roof shows signs of distress, arrange for safe snow removal.
- Clear ice and snow from vents. If mechanically ventilated facilities are not functioning properly, animals could suffocate from lack of oxygen. Open vents to facilitate natural air flow.

20. Portions of this section were adapted from All-Hazards Preparedness for Rural Communities, The Center for Food Security & Public Health, Iowa State University, 2014.



- Clear away the snow safely. Avoid overexertion. Strain from the cold and the hard labor can lead to a heart attack, a major cause of death in the winter. Make sure you have good footing when lifting the snow shovel.
- Take photographs of all damage for insurance or emergency assistance purposes.
- Contact your insurance agent to report any losses and obtain advice about restoration needs.
- Other:

For crops, list what steps or activities should be taken and, if applicable, who is responsible:

- Survey the damage to your crops from wind, hail or flooding.
- Evaluate injured plants to determine whether the growing potential is still viable; this is best done three to five days after the storm to allow time for plant recovery, if it occurs.
- Factors affecting the extent of crop damage include: degree of submergence of plant; weather conditions prior to the situation (e.g., temperature); plant growth stage and height, younger stages are more vulnerable; and whether there was a significant loss of soil nitrogen. Mud deposited on plants can stress plants and reduce photosynthesis
- Yield losses due to hail damage may include: stand reduction due to plant death; leaf area reduction due to hail damage to leaves; and severe bruising of leaf tissue.
- Contact your crop insurance agent prior to destroying or replanting crops to discuss coverage.
- Evaluating whether to replant will depend on: the existing plant stand; distribution of the plant stand; calendar date; weed situation; seed availability of earlier maturing hybrids; cost to replant; and, yield potential of the existing crop.
- Flood conditions can increase disease incidence in surviving plants; scout the fields often to determine if and when problems occur.
- Other:

Date Prepared: _____ Initials of person completing: _____

Date Updated: _____ Initials of person updating: _____

Date Updated: _____ Initials of person updating: _____

Date Updated: _____ Initials of person updating: _____

Date Updated: _____ Initials of person updating: _____

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