



Agrichemical Warehousing Standards Association

Accredited Seed Treatment Operations Standard

Resource Document:

Sample Emergency Response Plan

Prepared August 2017

CropLife Canada and its members created the Accredited Seed Treatment Operation Standards to provide uniform environmental, health and safety practices for the storage and handling of designated seed treatment products in Canada. The Standards were drafted by a multi-stakeholder working group consisting of registrants, distributors, ag-retailers, seed cleaning cooperatives, seed growers and relevant provincial and federal government agencies.

This Resource document has been developed to assist operators seeking certification under the Accredited Seed Treatment Operation Standards. This document references the 2016 Edition of the Standards.

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DISCLAIMER

The Accredited Seed Treatment Operation Standards that follow are intended to be used by the Agrichemical Warehousing Standards Association (AWSA) for the purpose of issuance of a Compliance Certificate. Neither CropLife Canada, AWSA, their employees, members, allied associations or agents have made or hereby purport to make any representation, warranties or covenants with respect to the specifications or information contained in these compliance standards or the results generated by their use, nor will they be liable for damage or loss of claims, including those of an incidental or consequential nature, arising out of these compliance standards. These standards are not in any way intended to supersede or detract from any requirements contained in municipal, provincial or federal by-laws, regulations or legislation.

Example Emergency Response Plan Components

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Emergency Response Plan (ERP)

An ERP is made up of the following components.

Section A – a narrative description of the following:

1. The Plan objectives
2. Alarm initiation
3. First response
4. Assessment
5. Continued response
6. Evacuation
7. Control centre
8. Fire department
9. Rescue
10. Spill containment
11. Security
12. Site services
13. Transportation and vehicles
14. Civil emergencies
15. Communication
16. All clear

Section B – an organization chart of the ER Team with names and titles and the responsibilities of each member on the team and the distribution of copies of the plan.

Section C - drawings and information to support the narrative description.

1. A site plot plan, run-off control pan and an area map
2. A warehouse plan view
3. A risk assessment summary and profile
4. The location of emergency equipment and supplies on the warehouse plan view
5. On site emergency equipment inventory list
6. The Fire Department sign off notice
7. The timing of the training and testing of the ERP
8. The next schedule review of the ERP
9. Information on dealing with the media.
10. Information on fire control tactics
11. The names and phone numbers of the following which are posted at each phone on the location:

- a. Fire department
 - b. Police department
 - c. Ambulance
 - d. Local hospital
 - e. Local doctor
 - f. ER Team members' home phone numbers
 - g. Product supplies
 - h. Canutec
 - i. Poison control centre
 - j. Ministry of Environment
 - k. Cleanup contractors
- 12. The location of ditches, creeks rivers, stream, springs, wells, storm serves and catch basins
 - 13. Fire routes and fire access sides
 - 14. Parking lot locations
 - 15. Location of the lunchroom, washrooms, clean-up facilities, offices, maintenance shop and the central control station
 - 16. Fuel storage areas
 - 17. Location of electric forklift truck battery charging station
 - 18. Location of all emergency exits
 - 19. Location of all portable fire extinguishers
 - 20. Location of first aid station
 - 21. Location of eyewash and shower
 - 22. Location of main shut off points for utilities
 - 23. Fire control tactics
 - 24. Dealing with the media
 - 25. CropLife Canada/AWSA emergency numbers.

Section D - document ER tests of plan, table top exercises and results of tests/exercises.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

Section A

Emergency Response Plan

Name of Company

Location

Telephone Number

Manager's Name: _____

Office Phone Number: _____

Alternative Phone Number: _____

For Chemical Emergencies involving spills, leaks, fires, exposure, vandalism,
tornados or accidents, phone:

Fire: _____

Police: _____

CANUTEC: 613-996-6666 or 888-226-8832

Emergency Response Plan

The Plan

This Emergency Response Plan gives specific instructions for responding and dealing with a variety of emergency events. These procedures will be used in training, indoctrination of new employees, and in practice sessions to develop the abilities of all employees to act responsibly and properly in any emergency.

The instructions are organized in the order in which they will be needed in the event of an emergency. This begins with the initial awareness of an emergency, through an assessment of the magnitude of the incident, to mobilization and response with all necessary resources, increase in this response as needed, and finally return to normal plant operations.

All users of this Emergency Response Plan manual must be thoroughly familiar with their own role and responsibilities in an emergency situation, they must be familiar with the emergency equipment and supplies at the operation, and above all they must know the location of the fire extinguishers, first aid supplies, personal protective equipment, spill clean-up equipment and phone to reach first responders nearest to their normal work location.

Initiation

The Emergency Response Plan will be initiated upon **any** of the following situations:

1. Fire – any sign of smoke or flame
2. Explosion – with which there is always a high likelihood of a subsequent fire, and the possibility of escape of toxic gases and of personal injury.
3. Escape of hazardous materials (liquid, gas, solids, or unusual odour) – when judged by those present as being a concern or threat to those in the immediate area, in other parts of the plant site, or in neighbouring areas outside the plant.
4. Serious injuries or fatalities.
5. Natural disasters, threats or external accidents, when judged by those present as being an immediate hazard or concern to personnel or operations.

The individual who activates the Emergency Response Plan will then announce the location and nature of the emergency via the established method of communication at your site.

The emergency announcement should be repeated, if possible.

First Response

Detail in this section what immediate actions must take place by the individual who activates the Emergency Response Plan and by the individuals on the ER team.

Such items to consider are:

- a) Is the immediate risk small or large? On site or off site?
- b) Should an attempt be made to handle the emergency locally?
- c) Who calls for outside assistance? Fire department, ambulance, police, etc.
- d) Who calls the Ministry of Environment or equivalent (*if applicable*)?
- e) If an injuries occurs, who contacts the hospital and immediate family?

Assessment

An evaluation of the seriousness of the emergency must be made quickly, in order to bring sufficient and appropriate resources into action to deal with it, yet to avoid serious over reaction. **It is better to over react than to fall short in response.**

The assessment will be made on the basis of:

- Severity - the nature, size, and extent of the problem
- Urgency - whether it has the potential to escalate quickly
- Threat - whether the effects and the risk of damage might become significant
- Impact - whether the effects are to people, the environment, property, or the company

Continuing Response

Describe in this section what actions will be taken as a result of a continuing response. Such actions are:

- a) What will the members of the ER team do at this point of the emergency?
- b) Who will complete a head count of employees and visitors on the site?
- c) Must utilities be shut down?
- d) What communication must take place and who has the responsibility?
- e) Is there a safe area for employees to gather?
- f) What actions must delivery truck drivers take?
- g) Are sufficient communication tools available?
- h) Is there a method of recording the actions taken by ER team member during the emergency?

Evacuation

Describe in this section who will call for an evacuation of the site and what criteria will be used to reach this decision. Who will coordinate the evacuation and how will it be communicated to all employees?

Control Centre

Describe in this section where the control centre will be located in the event of an emergency and an alternative location as backup. What emergency response material, equipment, supplies etc. will be maintained at the control centre?

Field Control Centre

Describe in this section if and when a field control station be established and by whom and where it should be located.

Fire Department and Rescue

The Fire Department is the normal first line of response to all emergencies including fires, explosions, gas releases, spills and personal injury.

On arrival at the scene of an emergency, discuss with the local Fire Department who will be in charge of the emergency and what action they will take and what resources they will need from the site.

Describe this in this section and ensure the Fire Department is in agreement with the plan.

Rescue

Describe in this section how you propose to make a rescue, who does it, how you know a rescue is required, what equipment is required, and what first aid equipment is available.

Spill Containment

In all cases, the spill, regardless of size, must first be contained. Once contained, the breach can be addressed followed by the clean-up and decontamination process.

Identify key activities that will activate the Plan for spill containment, clean-up and decontamination procedures.

Security

Describe in this section what security measures must be implemented to protect the physical assets of the operations and on-site employees and who will implement those measures during an emergency.

Some items to consider are:

- a) Will you allow the media to enter your property?
- b) Will you allow deliveries during an emergency?
- c) Will there be an alternative facility that will be used temporarily to allow operations to continue?

Site Services

Describe in this section how emergency utilities will be provided. Where can you obtain a generator for emergency power and will the Fire Department need access to a water supply? (i.e. a pond or lagoon). Will you need the services of an electrician? Will you need services of a bull dozer or backhoe? Do you need additional soil to build dikes? Who will be in charge to implement these services?

Transportation and Vehicles

Describe in this section if a vehicle (pick-up truck) could be needed in an emergency to pick up supplies, carry messages, or movement of people. How will this be provided and who will make the arrangements?

Civil Emergencies

Any group of emergency events which may affect the site, although their origin is not with your operations, may initiate the Emergency Response system. These include, but are not intended to be limited to the following:

- a) Natural disasters: flood, tornado, lightning, earthquake
- b) External accidents: airplane or vehicle crash, train derailment
- c) Civil emergencies: off-site nearby fires, municipal power failure, evacuation requested as a result of off-site events.

Describe in this section who will be in charge of the site during civil emergencies and how the ER team will react.

Communications

Communications both on-site and off-site, are a key requirement in any emergency. Communication is an integral part of all segments of the emergency response program. The descriptions in this section deal with emergency response communications and crisis communication with government agencies, the public and media.

Off-site Communications

Describe in this section how you propose to communicate with the ER team during an emergency.

Crisis Communications with the Public

External communications in any emergency will be important to the company.

Key action portions of the crisis communications must be understood by the ER team and the responsibility for implementation must be made.

The objectives of the external (and some of the internal) communications activities are to ensure that accurate information reaches the right people in order to:

- a) Protect lives and property
- b) Advise the proper government agencies
- c) Alleviate speculation and rumour
- d) Maintain community support for the operation and the company

Groups who will be receiving these messages include:

- a) Employees on-site and off-site concerning the nature and implications of the emergency. These contacts represent the front line with the off-site public, since employees are known to be related to the emergency
- b) Public relations resources to prepare them and assist
- c) Civil authorities to coordinate public and media messages and contacts
- d) Media – newspapers, radio, television and others to facilitate their legitimate interest in news to provide their audiences with comprehensive and accurate information
- e) Community neighbours including residences and nearby businesses
- f) Other citizens

Media Representatives

Make note of any individual(s) with responsibility for communicating with media. It is important that in emergency situations there is a clearly defined employee in charge of external media relations as per Company policy.

Release of Statements

Early in the schedule of activities, the employee in charge of communications will prepare a statement for release to the press and public, and **could** be one of the following preliminary statements, whichever is appropriate.

- a) For situations in which no facts are available:
"We are currently investigating reports of a (fire, fatality, etc.) at our plant and will provide you with information as soon as it is available."
- b) For situations in which only the general nature is known with no other details:
"We do have a (fire, fatality, etc.) at our plant, but no details have been verified. As soon as we have additional information, I will contact you."
- c) For situations in which details are known, but legal or other considerations prohibit making details public until the matter has been studied and a response approved:
"The situation is currently under investigation and it would not be appropriate to comment at this time. As soon as we have a statement to make, I will contact you."
- d) For situations where the Company prohibits a statement of any kind:
"It is not appropriate to comment on this subject at this time since it deals with fundamental operating policies of our Company. If it becomes appropriate to comment in the future, I will contact you with a statement."

The above statements are **not** intended to be used under normal circumstances. They are to be released only when some statement **must** be made and no public relations assistance is available.

All Clear

The decision that the emergency has been dealt with sufficiently to permit return to normal operations will be made by the Company, using the same criteria as in determining the start of the emergency. This decision may involve advice and information from the Fire Department Chief or applicable first responder.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Should your Company become involved in a fire, the Fire Chief at the scene should let the facility burn, if they determine that water application:

1. Will result in extensive contaminated water runoff, or
2. Could result in incomplete combustion of chemicals, resulting in a release of toxic compounds into the air.
3. Written authority from the Facility Manager to do so, if necessary or appropriate has been given. Yes ___ No ___.
4. This eventuality has been discussed with insurers of the facility. Yes ___ No ___.

See "AWSA Fire Control Tactics"

EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

Section B

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Position	Primary Contact	Alternate
Central Control Coordinator	<name> <phone> <email>	<name> <phone> <email>
First Aid & Environmental Chief	<name> <phone> <email>	<name> <phone> <email>
Communications & Technical Support Chief	<name> <phone> <email>	<name> <phone> <email>
Site Security & Transportation Chief	<name> <phone> <email>	<name> <phone> <email>
Site Maintenance & Fire Chief Alternate	<name> <phone> <email>	<name> <phone> <email>
External Medical Support	<name> <phone> <email>	<name> <phone> <email>

Responsibilities of Emergency Response Team Members

The following is a list of potential responsibilities that must be reviewed by your ER team. From these responsibilities, pick those that are relevant and assign an employee the responsibility to carry it out during an emergency.

Responsibility: Emergency Response Lead	Name
Overall coordination of emergency response function	
Preparation of emergency response plan, system developing, equipping and maintaining	
Direct coordination/supervision of counter measures during an emergency	
Provide information to President (or designate), communicate with municipal services, and provide/facilitate additional support to the field operations	
Selects Central Control site at time of emergency	
Establish and ER control centre(s)	
Make decisions concerning evacuation, shutting down operations, bringing in additional reinforcements	
Evaluation and action on information received from all team members	
Organization and restoration of facilities, investigations and other follow up activity after emergency	
With the President (or designate), advise families of any injured workers requiring hospitalization or extensive emergency medical treatment	
Ensures training and familiarization in emergency procedures, evacuation procedures, and warehouse shutdown	
Arranges engineering and environmental inspection of operations before authorizing return to normal operations	
Provision of all pertinent technical facts on all products involved with emphasis on their special toxic and biological hazards	
Ensure an up-to-date data base on all the Company's products, (i.e. material safety data sheets) which will help make initial information on toxicological and chemical hazards readily available	
Coordinates the procurement and updating of pertinent printed technical literature	
Provides pertinent information which will have an impact on the nature of further countermeasures	
Arranges transportation of injured to local hospitals as required	
Overall coordination and facilitation of medical assistance during an	

emergency, if required	
Provision of first aid treatment facilities including trained personnel	
Requests ambulance service, if required	
Arranges or otherwise ensures adequate training in first aid procedures for emergency response team members and on-site staff designated as backup	
Coordinates spills control response with Fire Department Chief	
Ensures that site surface water collection system and controls are set to ensure no contaminated water leaves site	
Evaluates environmental emergency and advises when reporting to government agencies should be extended or updated	
Coordinates on-site and off-site monitoring of air, water and other samples to track any dispersion on material released	
Provides continuing liaison contact with the Ministry of Environment on environmental issues after the initial notification telephone call	
Provision of first line response for firefighting, rescue, and spill control	
Directs fighting fire until Fire Department arrives, then provides sole company contact for assistance to them	
Ensures adequate firefighting and rescue training for all employees	
Contact local police to request assistance when off-site road traffic control is appropriate	

Responsibility: Communication Lead	Name
Operates telephones	
Ensures all applicable outside agencies are contacted	
Facilitation of all means of communication both on and off site during an emergency	
Official spokesperson for the Company	
Ensures all required communications are done on a timely basis	
Establishes contact with necessary officials and government agencies	
Prepares releases of information to the public during the incident and after	
Ensures support staff are properly trained for an emergency	
Assigns specific communication roles to other emergency staff	
Notifies hospitals and medical support people as appropriate about nature of the emergency	
Assists with calls to needed personnel or other resources	
Communicates with Company Doctor/Emergency Services to obtain special information on medical, hygiene and toxicological matters	
Communicate with medial aid as required	

Responsibility: Site Operations Lead	Name
Organizes Emergency lighting	
Coordinates rapid, orderly, safe shutdown of site operations in the event of an emergency, including close of all doors	
Overall control and coordination of site access (and departure) and physical security of the site during an emergency	
Ensures site is secure against entry by unauthorized people	
Supervises withdrawal of all employees on site to safe assembly areas	
Coordinates head count to ensure all staff and visitors on site are accounted for	
Supervises evacuation of site, when called for	
Arranges for search of all buildings	
Receives new visitors to site (such as government officials)	
Obtains authorization for entry and arranges escorts	
Records names of all persons entering and leaving the site during an emergency	
Controls vehicle and pedestrian traffic to and from, and on, site	
Equips and maintains stock of emergency medical supplies	
Carries out spill and other material release containment response to arrest and prevent further escape of hazardous materials	
Ensures availability of water for fire fighting	
Ensures provision of electric power and other utilities for vital services, including on-scene emergency lighting	
Provision for isolating damaged portions of utilities supply system, and for cutting off utilities and services for whole site	
Facilitates emergency repairs to buildings, utilities, etc.	
Maintains firefighting and pollution control equipment	

Distribution of Emergency Response Plan

The following have a copy of the (company name) Emergency Response Plan and as this plan is updated and upgraded, copies will be forward to the following people:

Copy #	Name	Location
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		

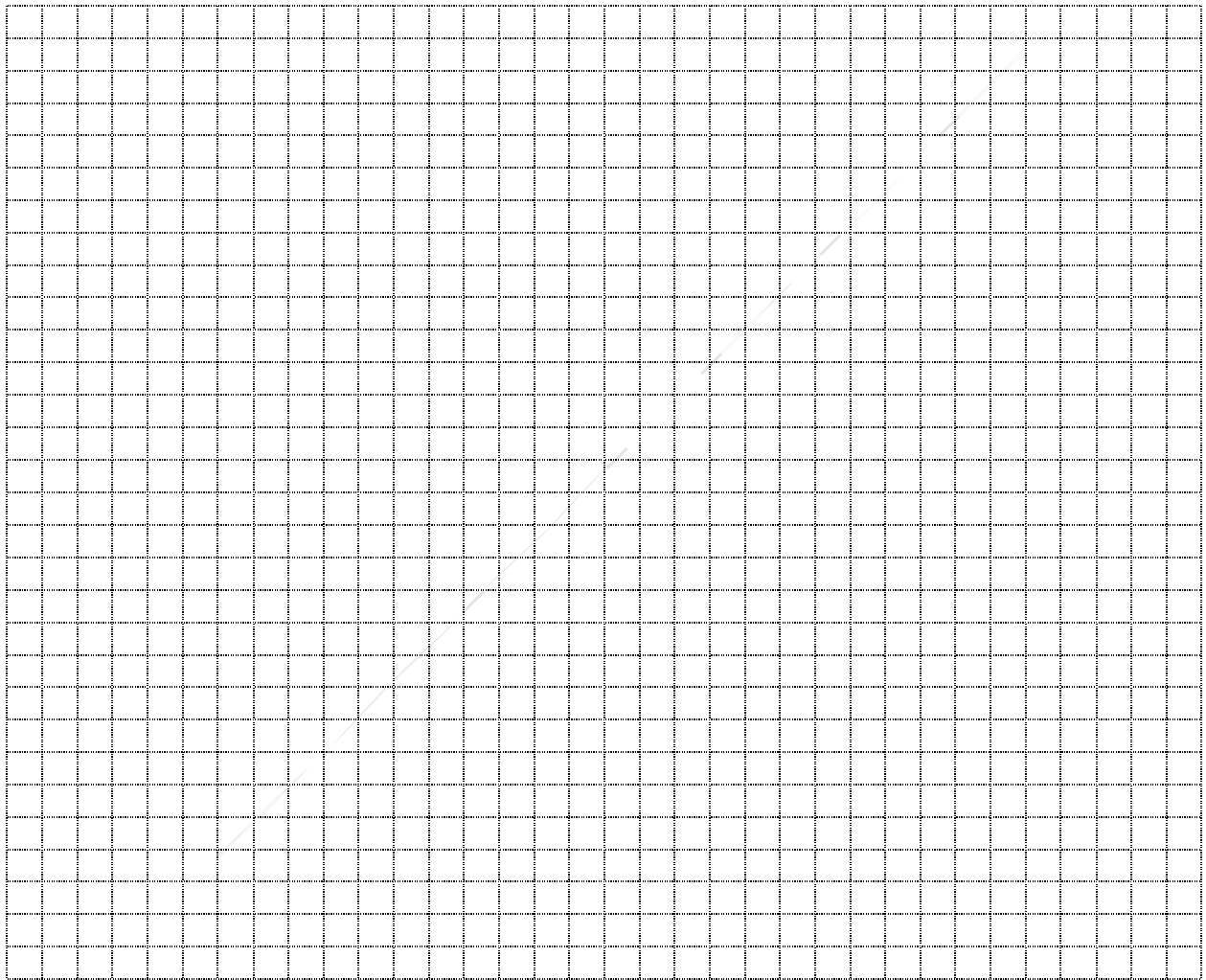
EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

Section C



Sketch of Facility & Immediate Surroundings

Draw map showing the property site and immediate surroundings. Show outline of buildings, type of construction, permanent interior walls, building openings, and major fixed equipment. Provide elevation views, if more than one storey. Locate all fixed outside equipment. Show perimeter fences, gates, rail spurs, floor drains, etc. Show access routes and approximate distances to important buildings. Select a suitable scale. *Identify areas of the facility committed to pesticides, flammables, oxidizers, etc. including bulk storage tanks.* Use symbols in the legend below. Show North arrow.



Legend

Fire Protection Equipment

Fire hydrant.....	(H)
Sprinkler booster connection	(B)
Main gas shutoff.....	(G)
Main electrical shutoff.....	(E)

1 (M)

Wall Construction

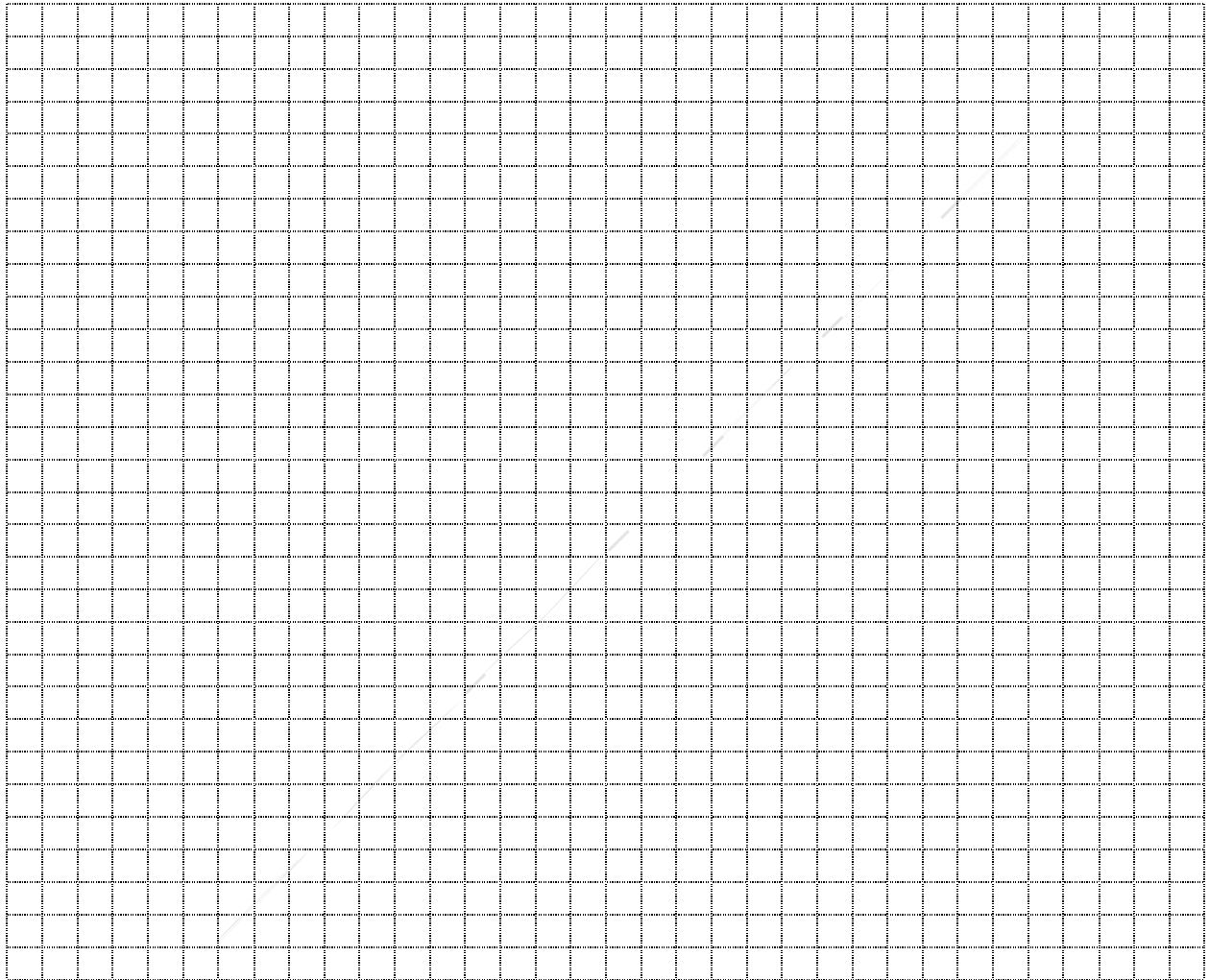
Concrete.....	
Masonry.....	
Metal.....	wwwwww
Wood.....	—
Fire Wall (Add to wall symbol).....	

Building

Pedestrian door.....	
Sliding door.....	
Overhead door.....	
Fire door (Add to door symbol).....	(FD)

Site Runoff Control

Draw map showing the surrounding area for about one mile in all directions. Extend the map in the direction of the site drainage so that drainage can be traced until it reaches the nearest large bodies of water. If runoff can be impounded on or off site show location and approximate number of gallons that can be contained. Locate where and how runoff may be blocked by dikes, dams, shutting off lift pumps, etc. Show surrounding land use (residential, cornfield, etc.) Show places of public assembly, such as schools, churches. Use symbols in the legend below. Show North arrow.



Legend

Exterior

Fence. *****
 Gates. ————
 Railroad. + + + + +
 Drain inlet. . . (D)
 Manhole. (M)

Well. (W)
 Drain lines or culverts (with
 direction of flow).
 Surface. ————
 Underground. ————

Direction ground slopes. . . wavy line
 Stream or creek. wavy line
 Impoundment location. . . (P)
 Lift pump. (P)
 Proposed dike or berm. . . ————

AGENCY NOTIFICATION

(List the names and telephone numbers of agencies that need to be notified should a spill or fire involving pesticides or fertilizers occur. Include railroads, if rails may be blocked.).

Name	Phone number

SUROUNDING OCCUPANCIES & LAND USE

(Describe surrounding land use in all four directions for one mile radius. For example, north: grazing land to ¼ mile, commercial district ¼ - ½ mile, residential zone ½ to 1 mile. Hospital located at 5th and Main. Show as much as possible in a facility sketch).

Direction	Occupancy/Land Use
North	
South	
East	
West	

LOCATION OF EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES:

(Available 24 hours a day. Include phone numbers.)

Emergency Equipment/Supplies	Location/Phone number
Self-contained briefing apparatus	
Spare compressed breathing air tanks	
Earth moving equipment	
Portable water pumps	
Street barriers	
Sand bags	
Other	

LOCATION & TYPES OF WATER SUPPLIES:

(Hydrants, ponds, irrigation canals, fresh or saltwater, etc. Verify hydrant thread compatibility and water pressure and flow rates.)

Types of Water Supply	Location

RISK ASSESSMENT

A risk assessment of your warehouse will answer the questions, what are the unwanted events which could occur at your warehouse that would cause harm to the business, to employees, or to the environment. Depending on the size of your business, there could be many unwanted events, but for a warehouse there are but a few, namely a fire, spill or major injury to an employee.

The following form provides a framework to tabulate the risk and provide comment to manage.

Unwanted event	Example of possible causes	Immediate consequences	Control mechanism to eliminate/reduce	Actions to control
Fire	<i>Electrical fault</i> <i>Smoking in facility</i>	<i>Fire and loss of assets</i> <i>Evacuation of surrounding area</i>	<i>Electrical inspection</i> <i>Adherence to designated smoking areas</i> <i>Emergency response training</i>	<i>ER Plan</i> <i>Containment plan</i>
Spill	<i>Leaking container</i> <i>Punctured container</i>	<i>Spill</i> <i>Splash</i> <i>Occupational exposure</i>	<i>Treated floor</i> <i>Spill containment</i> <i>PPE</i> <i>Spill clean-up equipment</i>	<i>Spill clean-up procedures</i> <i>Containment plan</i>
Major injury	<i>Fork lift truck roll over</i>	<i>Crush or fatality</i>	<i>Training on safe work procedures</i>	<i>Adherence to safe work procedures</i>

Risk Assessment Profile

Date updated: _____

Company: _____

Plant/Site Address: _____

Type of Business: _____ Phone: _____

Location (by street): _____ Security guard: Yes ___ No ___

Emergency access from: (Front) _____ (Rear) _____

Hours of operation: _____

Contact	Title	Business Phone	Home Phone

Major Hazards at above location (Attach extra sheets, if necessary) Site plan attached. Yes___ No ___

Hazardous material	TDG Class or PIN #	Quantity on site	Risk (fire, explosion, toxic, corrosive, etc.)

Other Major Hazards (consider fire, gas release, explosion, spills, energy (heat, pressure, electrical and other hazards)	Quantity/size/ etc.	Risk

Protective Systems on Site

Systems	Yes	No	Details
Sprinklers			
Hydrants			
Fire suppression			
Fire hoses			
Foam			
Fire crew			
Fire water containment			
Security systems			
S.C. breathing apparatus			
Emergency response plan <i>(Show location of command centre on site plan)</i>			
Medical staff			
Emergency vehicle			
Site communications <i>(radios, etc.)</i>			
Other emergency equipment or services			

Mutual Aid

Equipment and services available to Emergency Services for emergencies at other locations.

Equipment/Services	Description
Fire equipment	
S.C. breathing apparatus	
Rescue equipment	
Protective clothing	
Spill containment (dyking, absorbents, pumps, etc.)	
Earth moving/evacuation	
Lifting/cranes, etc.	
Laboratory/analytical services	
Chemical hazard/safety information or expertise	
Other emergency equipment or services	

Emergency Response

Phone Numbers

Emergency Response Team

Team	Business Phone	Alternative Phone
Control Centre Coordinator		
First Aid Chief		
Communications & Technical Support Chief		
Site Security & Transportation Chief		
External Medical Support		
Fire Department		
Police Department		
Ambulance		
Doctor		
Hospital		
Poison Control Centre		
Emergency Measures Organization		
Ministry of Environment		
Spill Control Centre		
Hydro		
CANUTEC	1-613-996-6666 or 1-888-226-8832	
Clean-up & Containment Specialists		
Management & Employees		
Other		

During the initial moments of an emergency, the situation is often hectic, so when calling the emergency response people, be sure to give them the following information:

- Name and callback phone number of person reporting
- Location of the incident
- General description of what has occurred
- Exact name, quantity and hazard class of the chemicals involved, if known
- Extent of injuries
- Potential danger to the environment and neighbouring population

Dealing with Media

1. Establish **in advance** one person that will be the Communication Lead.
2. All employees and emergency response personnel should be instructed to direct all press inquiries to this designated media contact (*Communication Lead*).
3. The most important item – **BE PREPARED**.
4. **Never** go on camera or talk to reporters without knowing exactly what to say and how you plan to say it.
5. Write down all the information you present.
6. Decide what the community needs to know and get basic information into your first answer or statement.
7. Along with the essential facts of the incident, also stress the positive, such as the situation is under control.
8. Help reporters by giving them the facts they need to file their stories.
9. Be patient. If you have important information that reporters don't know enough to ask about, be sure to provide it.
10. Use concise sentences and limit your response to 20 seconds or less
11. Be open and direct.
12. Use simple language the community will understand.
13. Look at the reporter, not the camera, during an interview.
14. When asked a question that's not part of your prepared material, give a brief answer – then get back on track.
15. **Never** speculate, never lie, and never say "no comment".
16. If you are asked questions about things you can't discuss, tell reporters you can't respond and why.
17. You don't have to answer inappropriate questions. In a patient and firm manner, steer away from controversy.

On Site Emergency Equipment Inventory Check List

Description	Quantity	Date checked
Eye wash		
Emergency shower		
Respirators		
Coveralls		
Brooms		
Shovels		
Self-contained breathing unit		
Over-pack drum		
Labels and markers		
Rubber gloves		
Open top pail with lid		
Safety glasses		
Rubber safety boots		
Other		

Crop Protection Products – Fire Control Tactics

Analysis of major fires over the past 20+ years that involved pesticides in pre-packaged containers indicate that these products in and of themselves do not constitute a special risk when stored in industrial /commercial warehouses. In no case was there any evidence to suggest that the pesticide, even with a flammable formulation provided the source of ignition or cause of the fire. Occasionally however, pesticides do become involved when a fire erupts in a facility. When this occurs special fire control tactics are required.

Experience from documented incidents involving pesticides in structural fires has shown that standard firefighting techniques can create additional and more serious problems than that proposed by the original fire.

A typical industrial occupancy, storing or processing pesticides will have a combination of various formulations which can range from relatively non-toxic non-flammable products to those which are either extremely toxic, highly flammable or both. It must be assumed when developing and implementing emergency response plans for these facilities that fire control and extinguishment tactics must address the worst of these products.

Environmental Concerns

Historical evidence has shown that environmental damage, resulting from fires involving pesticides increases in proportion to the volumes of water used in an attempt to control and extinguish the fire. First and foremost is the fact that the resulting effluent is normally heavily contaminated with toxic compounds and is extremely difficult to contain other than on very heavy clay soils or with diking. Secondly, product of incomplete combustion due to low temperature burns, tend to be substantially more toxic and less stable than the original compounds.

Air quality during a pesticide fire, at or near ground level, will deteriorate dramatically as the combustion temperature is reduced. A combustion temperature of 982°Celsius for example provides complete thermal decomposition of pesticides with resulting emissions of primarily carbon and water. At this temperature all contaminants are carried high into the atmosphere where dispersion ensures that toxic levels at or near ground level do not occur.

As the combustion temperature is reduced, various noxious and toxic gasses can be created, in addition, steam generated from the addition of water to the fire carries contaminated particles into lower levels of the atmosphere where they return quickly to the ground. As an example, air dispersion models run on pesticides indicate that where exit temperatures drop from 650° Celsius to 400° Celsius, the level of ground level contaminants rises by a factor of three.

LIFE SAFETY CONCERNS

Protection of first responders and the public is a major concern with fires involving pesticides. Historically, pesticides have not been the cause of serious casualties amongst the public and first responders who have been adequately trained.

As demonstrated in the previous section on air quality, the management of respirable contaminants at ground level hinges on the temperature of combustion, and the exit temperature from a structure. Where fires have been allowed to burn at high temperatures, the risk has been lowered significantly.

First responders at an incident involving pesticides must be protected with a minimum of self-contained breathing apparatus and standard turn-out gear. If a facility is fully involved or free burning, life safety is greatly enhanced by remaining outside the structure upwind of smoke and exhaust gasses to protect exposures of other buildings while the pesticides structure burns itself out.

FIRE CONTROL FACTS

Fire contract tactics where pesticides are involved, should follow protocols developed by the National Fire Academy of the US Federal Emergency Management Agency. Where an incident cannot be addressed at the incipient stage, and where it is possible to ventilate and let burn, the fire control tactics must be given serious consideration.

Emergency Response Numbers

In case of a fire, spill, damaged containers or other medical emergencies, report immediately by telephone to the emergency number of the company. If a company cannot be reached call: CANUTEC – 888-226-8832

ADAMA Agricultural Solutions Canada Ltd. 877-250-9291 or 800-535-5053	Monsanto Canada Inc. 314-694-4000 or CANUTEC (888-226-8832)
Albaugh Inc. CHEMTREC (800-442-9300)	N.M. Bartlett Inc. CANUTEC (888-226-8832)
AMVAC Chemical Corporation 888-462-6822 or CHEMTREC (800-424-9300)	NovaSource CHEMTREC (800-424-9300)
Arysta LifeScience Canada Inc. 866-303-6952 or CHEMTREC (800-442-9300)	NuFarm Agriculture Inc. CHEMTREC (800-424-9300)
BASF Canada 800-454-2673	Petro-Canada Lubricants 403-296-3000
Bayer Inc. 800-334-7577	Plant Products Inc. CANUTEC (888-226-8832)
Cheminova Canada 866-303-6950 or CANUTEC (888-226-8832)	Premier Tech Home and Garden 866-454-5867
Dow AgroSciences Canada Inc. CANUTEC (888-226-8832)	Syngenta Canada Inc. 800-327-8633
E.I. DuPont Canada Company 800-441-3637	Scotts Canada 888-779-7919
Engage Agro Corporation 866-336-2983 or CHEMTREC (800-424-9300)	United Agri Products Ltd 800-561-8273 or CANUTEC (888-226-8832)
FMC Canada 800-331-3148 or CHEMTREC (800-424-9300)	United Phosphorus Inc. CHEMTREC (800-424-9300)
Gowan Canada CHEMTREC (800-424-9300)	United Suppliers Canada Inc. 306-222-6978
Interprovincial Co-operative Ltd. CANUTEC (888-226-8832)	Univar Canada Ltd. 866-333-6376
Loveland Products Canada Inc. 800-561-8273 or CANUTEC (888-226-8832)	Valent Canada Inc. CHEMTREC (800-424-9300)

Note: if the safety or environmental incident is serious please contact AWSA:
Russel Hurst, Executive Director: 416-622-9771 x2223 (after hours 416-471-8100)

Disclaimer: the information provided is general in nature and was checked for accuracy on the date indicated to serve as a guide. AWSA certified facilities are encouraged to keep all records and emergency contact information current.

Updated May 8, 2017

EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

Section D



Record Keeping

Record and maintain your records of the emergency response test that you conduct, the table top exercises that have been performed and the results of these tests.

Include date, list of participants, emergency procedures covered and what recommendations must be made to the emergency response plan as a result of the tests and who will implement the recommendations.

ER Plan Review

This Emergency Response Plan has been studied by the ER team at (*name of company*) and each member of the team has a copy.

The completion of the study was on _____ (*date*)

The ER Plan will be reviewed in 12 months _____ (*date*) together with an ER exercise.

ER Plan Review

The ER Plan was reviewed with the local Fire Chief or designate who has signed that he has received the copy and that the Plan appears reasonable.

Signatures:

Fire Department Official

Date _____

Company Manager

Date _____

ER Plan Review

The local Fire Chief or designate has a copy of the total estimated potential inventory kept at the operation at any one time as per the following breakdown.

Product location:	<i>All pesticides are located in the warehouse (as identified in the site layout map)</i>
Alternative location (if applicable):	<i>During treatment periods there are smaller amounts of seed treatment products connected to the seed treater (as identified in the site layout map)</i>
Maximum amount of pesticide on site at any time:	<i>Identify the max volume (in Litres or Kgs) that may be present at the operation at any given time</i>
Identify any pesticides that are classified as flammable	<i>Identify products that are classified as flammable and note the potential max volume present</i>
Identify any time periods where there may be not products on site	<i>For seasonal operations there may per periods of time throughout the year where there will be no pesticide stored on-site. Identify accordingly</i>

The most recent version of the potential pesticide inventory listing was reviewed internally on _____ (date)

The most recent version of the potential pesticide inventory listing was submitted to as part of the ER plan on _____ (date)

ER Plan Review

TABLE TOP EXERCISE

A table top ER exercise was completed on _____ (*date*). Indicate the names of staff and ER personnel present and the specific emergency topic reviewed.

PHYSICAL DRILL

A physical ER exercise was completed on _____ (*date*). Indicate the names of staff and ER personnel present and the specific emergency topic reviewed.