

Additional Equipment, Contractors and Storage	Location and Owner	Telephone

#### 4. Your Emergency Action Plans for Potential Manure Spills

Manure Spill in Farm Yard or Breach of Manure Storage
Your Plan:
<i>General action steps: Stop flow into storage, notify farmer/client, build containment dams, add soil to berm, pump manure from storage to field or alternative storage (such as a tank or other manure storage facility), remove and clean up manure from discharge area, notify authorities if impacted a water body or water source (such as a well or dugout).</i>
Manure Spill on Road
Your Plan:
<i>General action steps: Assess the situation. Human injuries, if present, take precedence. Prevent further accidents or injuries by putting out warning signs such as flashers, flares or triangles. Stop any oncoming traffic, stop any additional spillage, try to contain the manure released or spilled, and remove any that can be done without disruption to the road. Contact county bylaw officer, the county sheriff or RCMP, remove any remaining manure from road under advisement. Prepare summary report.</i>
Manure Dragline or Pumping Emergency
Your Plan:
<i>General action steps: Stop pumps, close valves, separate or clamp pipes, build containment dams, notify the farmer/client and the Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB), remove and clean up manure from discharge area. Prepare summary report.</i>
Manure Spill in Field
Your Plan:
<i>General action steps: Stop manure application, build containment dams, plow a diversion trench, remove and clean up manure from discharge area, notify the farmer/client and the Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB). Prepare summary report.</i>

### Other Tools and Resources

- Beneficial Management Practices Environmental Manual for Livestock Producers in Alberta. Agdex 400/28-2
- Beneficial Management Practices Environmental Manual for Alberta Farmsteads. Agdex 090-1
- Nutrient Management Planning Guide. Alberta Agriculture and Food. 2007
- Manure Spreading Regulations. Revised May 2007. Agdex 096-5
- Manure Management Record Keeping Regulations. Revised May 2007. Agdex 096-3
- Hydrogen Sulphide Emissions and Safety. March 2004. Agdex 086-2

### Contact Information

**Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development**  
Phone 310-FARM (3276) toll-free to contact Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development or visit [www.agriculture.alberta.ca](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca)

**Natural Resources Conservation Board**  
Toll-free 24 hr Response Line 1.866.383.6722  
Email: [info@nrcb.ca](mailto:info@nrcb.ca) or visit [www.nrcb.ca](http://www.nrcb.ca)

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# Emergency Action Planning for Commercial Manure Applicators

This brochure provides a template to develop an Emergency Response Plan for your business in case of a manure spill. Commercial manure applicators should plan for potential manure releases from all manure storage facilities and equipment at all points along the manure handling pathway. This plan should be readily available and understood by all employees. A copy of this plan should be available in all equipment and vehicles for quick reference when out at land application sites and posted by all telephones in the main office of the business.

Having an Emergency Response Plan will help you and your business better ensure public safety, protect the environment, facilitate a rapid response in an emergency situation and help avoid potential consequences that could occur as a result of ineffectual spill response or lack of notification to authorities.

## What to do if there is a spill

Make an initial assessment of the situation. Ensure the area is safe to enter and that there are no injuries requiring emergency first aid or further medical attention. Assess the extent of the spill. Determine if there are any immediate risks to public safety and the environment. Take quick and effective action to minimize the impact. **Refer to your Emergency Action Plan for guidance and for contact phone numbers.**

Notify the farmer or client of the incident. Work to get the appropriate equipment needed to build containment structures or to clean up the spill. If the spill is on a roadway, notify the county or municipal district and the RCMP right away so they can assist with traffic control and/or clean-up procedures. If the spill occurs on public property, crosses property lines or has the potential to impact water bodies or water sources contact the Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) 24 hour response line. The NRCB will work with you to notify other agencies if warranted and may assist with recommendations for clean-up and restoration of the spill site.

It is a good idea to have an emergency spill kit available to assist with control and clean up. An emergency spill kit could include:

- auto or radio-controlled shutoff valves & pumps
- shovels
- pails
- line clamps
- flags, safety triangles, flashers or flares
- berm socks or bales
- plywood to block culverts
- fire extinguisher
- first aid kit

## Steps to Spill Response

### I. Ensure Human Safety

- a. Call 911 immediately for all road incidents.
- b. Beware of oncoming traffic and your own personal safety.

- c. Put out flags, safety triangles or flares to warn oncoming traffic.
- d. Conduct emergency first aid. Personal injuries take precedence.

### 2. Control the Source

- a. Stop manure application and/or pumps.
- b. Close valves.
- c. Separate pipes, creating an air gap and stopping flow due to siphoning.
- d. Transfer manure liquid to another basin, lagoon or tank.
- e. Plug holes or shut off the water in case of a waterline break.

### 3. Contain the Spill

- a. Limit the area impacted.
- b. Build a containment dam out of soil or bales in field, ditch or stream.
- c. Till the soil ahead of and perpendicular to the direction of the flow path to slow flow velocity and increase infiltration.
- d. Construct a temporary holding basin down slope from the release.
- e. If accessible, place soil over the point of seepage.

### 4. Report and Notify

- a. Contact the farmer/client to inform of the spill and request assistance if needed.
- b. Did the release reach any surface water bodies, water well casings or other potential sensitive areas?
- c. All manure spills must be reported to the NRCB. They will work with you to notify other authorities when warranted.
- d. You must immediately report manure spills on public roads and those that threaten surface water bodies.
- e. Prepare a summary report for all spills, even those that occur in a farm yard or out in a field to document your actions and keep it on file.
- f. Summary reports should include who was contacted (person's name and working title), photographs and documentation of the spill and clean-up process.

### 5. Clean Up – Assess and restore the affected area

- a. Collect spilled manure and spread on cropland or return to storage.
- b. Authorities may provide guidance on how to clean up spills on roadways or those that have impacted water bodies.
- c. Restore damaged area.
- d. Complete a summary report.
- e. Repair any components or equipment to prevent future spills.

## Emergency Action Plan

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date created: \_\_\_\_\_

### I. List Emergency Telephone Numbers

Business Owner/Main Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

NRCB 24 hour Response Line: 1.866.383.6722

911

County Bylaw Officers: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Develop a Map for the Counties You Service

Items to include:

- Major road crossings or potential high collision areas to be aware of or to avoid
- Bridge crossings to be aware of or to avoid
- Significant natural surface water bodies such as lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands and sloughs
- Significant water sources such as municipal water reservoirs and irrigation canals
- Identify community centers and rural residential housing developments
- Anticipated flow path in the event of a spill at any of the points listed above
- Other sensitive areas or features that could affect your emergency action plan

### 3. Earth-Moving Equipment Available for Manure Spills

Include owned or other nearby equipment and contact information. Ideally, you should have a prearranged agreement with contractors, neighbouring producers or the county. Include excavating equipment as well as additional pumping equipment and storage.