

SHIFT SAFETY INTO HIGH GEAR

WITH THESE **FLOOD SAFETY TIPS:**



Identify Emergency Resources

In case of a flood situation, have in place an emergency plan. The emergency plan should include phone numbers of resources you may need before, during and after the emergency, including:

1. Employees
2. Neighbors
3. Veterinarians
4. Poison Control Center
5. Animal shelters
6. Livestock transport resources
7. Feedstock providers in various regions

Make sure to include contact information for resources out of the area in case local resources are overwhelmed.

Check for Fire Hazards

Plan to remove all fuels away from the vicinity of barns. Turn off all electrical power to barns and buildings, and other structures that house livestock until the threat of flooding has subsided. Instead, use gasoline or diesel generators that can be transported away from the area when not in use.

Check driving conditions

Checking for safe conditions before driving through water on flooded roads with vehicles or farm machinery, remember that the road may have washed away under the water!

Have a plan for extracting stuck equipment

Injuries can occur when you do not have a plan in place for extracting stuck equipment. For further safety tips refer to the Purdue Safely Extracting Farm Equipment guide — [PPP-98.pdf \(purdue.edu\)](#)

Discuss expectations with hired workers

As to whether it is safe for them to come to work, do they need to change their route to the farm, provide training if they are going to be helping with flood preparedness tasks that they don't normally do, etc

Be aware of electrical cords

Making sure electrical cords in workshops etc are up above any potential water height (not trailed across the floor where water can get into the connector).

Ensure Animal Identification

When possible, livestock should have visible identification numbers, even if you do not plan to transport them from the property. Floods often drive livestock to seek shelter. They often become lost or end up in a neighbor's pasture.



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Restrict Access to Dangerous Areas

When necessary, move livestock to higher ground and deny access to flood prone pastures, barns and other structures. Many livestock drown because they refuse to leave flooded shelters. Make sure that livestock are not able to re-enter potentially dangerous areas.

Supply Food and Water

During floods, it's important that livestock have plenty of food and clean water. The emergency preparedness plan should include contingency options for feeding and watering these animals if existing resources become contaminated by floodwaters. In some cases, it may be necessary to truck in water to livestock holding areas.

Remove Potential Contaminants

Floodwaters often contaminate soils, animal feed supplies, and fresh water sources by carrying chemicals, fertilizers, trash and other debris from their original containers and locations. Where this hazard exists:

1. Label hazardous materials and place them in a safe location.
2. Remove chemicals, fuels, fertilizers, and other contaminants to higher ground and check containers for leaks.
3. Maintain an inventory of all hazardous substances that could be leaked during a flood.
4. Remove old, buried trash that could leach into crops, feed supplies, water sources and pastures.
5. Secure or remove anything that could become blowing debris, including trailers, propane tanks, boats, feed troughs.

Resources:

Manitoba Agriculture Flood Announcements:

<https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=58857&posted=2023-04-13>

<https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=58837&posted=2023-04-13>

The United States National Weather Service is predicting the Red River to spill its banks and reach major flood stage in North Dakota. Current predictions have the river level reaching major flood stage around April 18 with no predicted crest at this time:

<https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=fgf&gage=fgon8>

The Government of Manitoba will be updating flood forecasts on an ongoing basis. More information on Manitoba flood forecasts can be found here. The Government of Manitoba will be updating flood forecasts on an ongoing basis:

<https://gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/>

