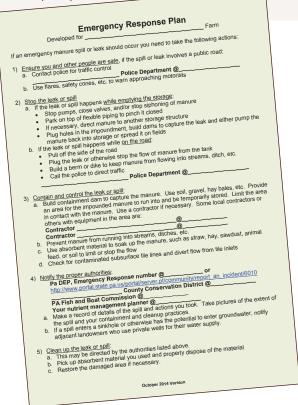


Environmental Emergencies and Spill Response

5 steps to minimize negative impacts on the environment:

- 1. Assure human safety!
- 2. Stop the flow at the source.
- 3. Contain and control existing spill.
- 4. Notify the proper authorities.
- 5. Clean up the spill.



An Emergency Response Plan is required as part of a PA Nutrient Management Plan or PA Manure Management Plan. Use the link below to find this guidance document. https://extension.psu.edu/programs/nutrient-management/planning-resources/alternative-tech-manual/spreadsheets-and-forms/emergency-response-plan/view

Always Remember These Key Safety Takeaways When Working:

- Prevention is always best! Develop standard procedures so all workers conduct routine equipment inspections and safe operating practices.
- NEVER enter manure storage structures or tanks or spreaders due to the presence of dangerous levels of manure gases.
- Use the buddy system, especially when a task involves dangerous gases.
- Ensure your personal protective equipment (PPE) is adequate and up to date.
- Be sure all family members and employees have the proper training for handling manure spills.
- Double- and triple-check your surroundings and potential hazards every time.

https://www.agriculture.com/manurepit-accidents-are-more-deadly-thannot-7853529



Well meaning, but not properly protected, family or coworkers can

unintentionally make a situation more tragic.

https://www.businessinsider.com/three-brothers-ohiofarm-died-after-passing-out-manure-pit-2021-8





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www.paagombudsman.com



MANURE SPILLS RESPONSE in Pennsylvania





What defines a manure spill?

It can be considered any manure nutrient application above an agronomic rate. The PA Clean Streams Law is used for guidance. Occurence is often triggered from a weather event. **PA generally considers these scenarios:**

- Accidental spill or release
- Intentional release
- Over-application on fields
- Overflow of freeboard without a storm event
- Overflow of freeboard without a large storm event could be considered negligent management

1. Assure Human Safety.

- · Never enter a confined space.
- If a spill occurs on a road, immediately call safety authorities such as
 police and firemen to aid in slowing/redirecting traffic. Dial 911 from a
 mobile phone to do this.
- Broken down equipment, people, and manure on road surfaces or roadsides increase the risk of further accidents with passing motorists.
- Use flares, reflective safety triangles, or traffic cones to warn and slow motorists. Carry emergency equipment in your vehicles.

2. Stop The Flow At The Source.

- · Stop manure application or pumps.
- · Close valves. Shut off power.
- Separate pipes to create an air gap to stop flow due to siphoning.
- Redirect manure to another storage or temporary container.
- · Plug holes. Build dams.
- · Park on top of flexible piping to pinch it closed.

3. Contain And Control Existing Spill. Limit The Impact Area.

- Build containment dam or temporary holding basin down slope from the release (2 dams are recommended). Use soil, sand or hay bales. Call an excavator if needed. Pump manure out of the containment. Vacuum pumps may be needed.
- · Block culvert pipes.
- Divert flow from tile inlets and wellheads. Shovel soil around above-ground water inlets so manure flows around and not into the piping.
- Use absorbent material such as straw, hay, sawdust, or soil to limit or halt flow.
- Till across the slope to slow flow and allow penetration into soil.

PA DEP's statewide emergency response number is 1-800-541-2050.

Report emergency regardless of time of day or where the incident is located.

4. Notify The Proper Authorities.

- Do not avoid this step. Attempting to hide an accident can make things worse in the long run.
- For spills on roads call 911 who will contact local help for safety, and clean up processes.
- Contact PennDOT or the municipality when manure impacts the roadways. Contact PA Dept of Environmental Protection (DEP) when the manure impacts waters of the Commonwealth. DEP's statewide emergency response number is 1-800-541-2050.
- Document details of the incident and response actions taken. Place this
 on file to protect you from future legal actions.
- Take photos a picture tells a thousand words, and can protect you from accusations that are not true.
- Many farms and manure hauling companies have Emergency Action Plans that provide a protocol for reporting spills. For CAOs and CAFOs, an Emergency Action Plan is required, and can be found with a farm's Nutrient Management Plan.



Manure hose rupture when the line is charged with pressurized air during line cleanout.

5. Clean Up The Spill.

- If the spill occurred on a roadway or entered a stream, authorities may need to direct clean up efforts.
- Collect spilled manure and absorbent material. Land apply the material, or place in a manure storage.
- If the spill occurred in an environmentally sensitive area, it may be necessary to remove soil from the area.
- Restore the damaged area. Vegetation may need restoration also.