

# Severe Storm Emergency Response Procedure<sup>20</sup>

## List who to call:

- **Refer to Appendix 1: Emergency Contact Information**
- 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.

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## 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.

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. [prep4agthreats.org/Assets/Factsheets/All-Hazards-Preparedness-for-Rural-Communities-Book.2014.pdf](http://prep4agthreats.org/Assets/Factsheets/All-Hazards-Preparedness-for-Rural-Communities-Book.2014.pdf)



- 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.
- 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 loses and obtain advice about restoration needs.
- Other:

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**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:

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Date Prepared: \_\_\_\_\_

Initials of person completing: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Updated: \_\_\_\_\_

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