Biosecurity and security are part of an all-hazards approach to Agriculture Safety

BE PREPARED

- Create a Biosecurity plan for your operation, to be included with your Emergency Plan.
  - For additional information utilize websites such as the following: The Fertilizer Institute (www.tfi.org), the Agricultural Retailers Association (www.aradc.org), etc.
  - Incorporate into your plan, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection’s Best Management Practices for the Chemical Sector, and the New Jersey Department of Transportation’s Best Management Practices, if applicable.
  - For assistance with the plans, contact the New Jersey Department of Agriculture – Division of Markets at 609-292-5575.

BE ALERT

- Talk with your county Emergency Management Coordinator. Let him/her know about your operation’s needs and concerns, in the event of a disaster or an emergency. Learn about your county’s disaster and emergency evacuation procedures and incorporate the following into your plan:
  - Understand the hazards/risks associated with your area.
  - Develop plans on how and where to evacuate your workers and how to shelter-in-place.
  - Develop procedures to implement if there is a breach in security concerning your operations.

- Develop a list of important phone numbers, with contact names, such as the following: (keep at an on-site and off-site location)
  - Police / Fire / EMS: 9-1-1
  - Local Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension Agent
Keep the Garden State Safe

BE ALERT (continued)

- County Emergency Management Coordinator
- NJ Dept. of Agriculture – Division of Markets (609-292-5575)
- NJ Dept. of Agriculture – 24-hour number (609-292-8896)
- Local Department of Health
- Emergency Notification List, including after hours numbers (e.g. owner, supervisors, workers, vendors, suppliers, etc.). Include a list of essential employees allowed access to the facility during emergencies.

- Notify authorities of people taking unauthorized pictures or asking questions about operations, security, hazardous materials, etc.

- Maintain awareness of the location of visitors.
  - Post signs informing visitors where park and where to report.
  - Maintain visitor's log and escort all visitors, including delivery personnel, service support, etc., while on premises.
  - Restrict access to key manufacturing and storage areas.

- Watch for and report signs of tampering with equipment, hazardous materials, water, product, buildings and utilities.
  - Implement a security plan and have written procedures on steps to take if you suspect or find evidence of contamination, tampering or theft.
  - Ensure your finished products are properly packaged and labeled for traceability.
  - Comply with the security protocols for ammonium nitrate and any other product that can be utilized as a weapon.
  - Have a recall plan with provisions for notification and recall of products that have been shipped or sold.

- Watch for unusual signs that may indicate possible bioterrorism:
  - Theft of product.
  - Purchase attempts of product by non-agricultural professionals.
  - Discoloration and/or odd smell of fertilizer components.
  - Multiple cases of workers with a mysterious illness, rash, or other signs.
  - Calls from customers with dead/dying crops.

- Talk with your local Extension Agent to become familiar with the signs of biological, chemical, and physical safety hazards.

- Maintain situational awareness of on-going threats.

- Train employees to be alert, vigilant with their surroundings, and who to notify if they see suspicious activity.
BE SECURE

- Establish Standard Operating Procedures for all areas of your operations.

- Ensure the physical security of buildings and grounds.
  - Limit access to your operations – consider utilizing perimeter fencing with controlled gate access, electronic security devices, and industrial-type door hardware.
  - Lock discharge gates of all bins, entry/discharge points of tanks, and covers of receiving pits, when not in use. Install guards on exterior ladders of bulk storage tanks and lock when not in use.
  - Maintain adequate internal/external lighting.

- Limit access to the water/electrical supply and secure them to prevent tampering.

- Install a security policy and security measures for deliveries to ensure ingredients are safe.
  - Purchase only from an approved list of suppliers.
    - Determine reputation of contract haulers for container cleanliness and product security during transport.
  - Have your representative present for all deliveries.
    - Inspect and sample all bulk products before and during off-loading them.
  - Maintain accurate records of products.

- Maintain up-to-date inventories. Investigate discrepancies immediately.
  - Keep invoices on file.
  - Watch for signs of theft and evidence of tampering.
    - Inspect storage areas routinely.

- Pre-screen new employees to establish prospective employee’s qualifications and demeanor.

- Keep vehicles and equipment locked and keys secured, when not in use.
  - Monitor vehicles for inappropriate contents or unauthorized/unusual activity.

- Restrict access to computers and sensitive documents.
  - Protect computer data with virus protection.

- Shred sensitive documents before discarding.

- Train employees to be secure and notify you if they detect a breach in security.
Keep the Garden State Safe

BE CLEAN

- Keep chemicals and hazardous materials separate from consumable products.
- Follow sanitary practices to eliminate contamination.
  - Implement a written housekeeping program.
  - Implement a written rodent/pest control program.
- Provide sanitation and hand-washing facilities.
  - Encourage hand washing with disinfectant soap, especially after using the restroom facilities, handling hazardous materials, etc.
- Train employees to recognize known characteristics of your products.
- Train employees to be clean and to notify you if they see discrepancies.

BE CURRENT

- Practice emergency drills with your employees and with emergency responders.
- Review and update your plan every year, and after each drill if necessary.

NOTIFY/CALL

- If you suspect suspicious activity, call local law enforcement and 1-866-4-SAFE-NJ.
- If you notice workers and/or customers unexpectedly getting sick, notify the local health department and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture.
- Train employees to notify you if there are concerns/problems.
  - Train them on the proper response procedures.
  - If tampering, contamination, or thefts are suspected, isolate the suspected product and remove workers from the area.
  - Monitor product and facilities until authorities arrive.
- Train your employees on your plan and to Be Alert, Be Secure, Be Clean and Notify/Call.