

It is the policy of the Small Grains and Potato Research Facility that the primary considerations in an emergency are the safety of personnel and the protection of the environment, research, equipment and the facilities. Fires, explosions, chemical and concentrated pesticide spills, laboratory and field accidents, hazardous weather and earthquakes are considered emergencies.

In general, each employee who is trained or willing should render assistance (first aid, CPR) to injured people only if the assisting employee will not be placed in danger. Injured people should not be moved if they are not in immediate danger. Call 9-911 to summon trained medical help and notify the project supervisor, safety officer, or research leader.

In the case of accidents involving chemicals or pesticides, be prepared to tell the medical personnel which chemical is involved and/or provide them with a copy of the Material Data Safety Sheet (MSDS). First Aid/CPR classes are offered through the University of Idaho and all employees are encouraged to attend.

Fires may create toxic smoke or chemical fumes that require the lab or building to be evacuated. Be aware of this possibility before starting any procedure; check with the Collateral Duty Safety Officer. Determine in advance any response to a fire. Fire extinguishers are distributed throughout the facility and are inspected on a regular basis. Training is offered on a regular basis for proper use of an extinguisher. Fire first responders are trained and available. If you are not trained, only fight a fire if you feel comfortable in doing so. Regardless of the size of the fire, always make sure that the fire department is notified (9-911) before you begin fire control, so that trained personnel are responding.

Emergencies may also occur due to loss of utility services (electricity and water), severe weather and other natural conditions. Any hazardous work should be stopped until service is restored. In the case of severe weather or other natural emergency, contact the project supervisor if you are unable to travel to the facility.