

Security and Theft

Although anhydrous ammonia is a valuable source of nitrogen fertilizer for Michigan farmers, it is also a key ingredient in the illegal production of the drug methamphetamine.

To report suspicious activities related to anhydrous ammonia security and theft, contact:

Michigan Meth Hotline:

- **1-866-METH-TIP** (1-866-638-4847)
OR
- Your local police department



In 2007, the Michigan Commission of Agriculture approved Anhydrous Ammonia Safety and Security Practices (AASSPs), which are recommendations addressing the storage and handling practices for agricultural use of anhydrous ammonia. Sellers and end users implementing the AASSPs are granted immunity from personal injury and property damage claims caused by anhydrous ammonia theft or unlawful use.

A copy of the AASSPs is available at www.michigan.gov/mda-fertilizer.

The adoption of AASSPs by Michigan producers and the fertilizer industry helps ensure that farmers can continue to use anhydrous ammonia fertilizer by preventing its theft for illegal use.

Anhydrous Ammonia Emergency Contacts

Spills and Releases

A release of **19 gallons** (100 lbs.) or more must be **reported immediately** (within 15 minutes) to three levels of government:

1 Local Authorities: 911

2 State Authorities: MDA Ag Pollution Emergency Hotline: **1-800-405-0101** OR MDEQ Pollution Emergency Alert System: **1-800-292-4706**

3 Federal Authorities: EPA National Response Center: **1-800-424-8802**

For Spill and Release info:

www.michigan.gov/deqrelease or contact the Michigan SARA Title III Program at **517-373-8481**.

Because it is difficult to determine the amount of a release quickly, it is recommended that every release be reported. **There is no penalty for over reporting!**

Michigan Department of Agriculture

Pesticide & Plant Pest Management Division
P.O. Box 30017
Lansing, MI 48909
Phone: 517-241-2979
www.michigan.gov/mda



Anhydrous Ammonia Fertilizer



Permits, Plans, Emergency Reporting, and Security



Pesticide & Plant Pest Management Division
www.michigan.gov/mda

Anhydrous Ammonia Fertilizer

Anhydrous ammonia is a valuable, low cost form of nitrogen fertilizer used in Michigan agriculture. In the last decade, it has become a target for theft by illegal drug makers. Unintended releases, whether from theft or farm operations, can be dangerous to human health. By being proactive and taking the proper precautions, anhydrous ammonia can be used safely and securely for its intended agricultural uses.



Storage

Anhydrous ammonia is stored as a liquid in high-pressure tanks at agricultural retailers and on farms.

If you are storing anhydrous ammonia in large permanent storage tanks (over 10,000 pounds), you need both an Air Quality Permit, and an Emergency or Risk Management Plan.

Air Quality Permit

All stationary anhydrous ammonia tanks must have an air quality permit issued by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). For more information and to complete a permit application, go to: www.deq.state.mi.us/aps/generalpermits.shtml.

Risk Management Plan (RMP)

Under federal law, all agri-businesses and farmers acting as distributors of anhydrous ammonia must develop an RMP and submit it to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). There is help for distributors to prepare and submit an RMP electronically, by visiting: www.epa.gov/emergencies/content/rmp/index.htm.

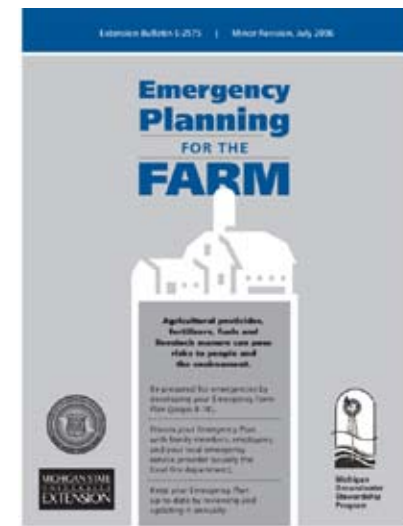
Emergency Management Plan (EMP)

Farmers who store more than 10,000 pounds of anhydrous ammonia on site for their own use must have an EMP in place. They do not need an RMP unless they are selling to others.

Farms may use the Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) bulletin, "Emergency Planning on the Farm" (E-2575) to develop their emergency plan found at <http://web2.msue.msu.edu/bulletins/Bulletin/PDF/E2575.pdf> or by contacting their county extension office. See the SARA Title III Reporting section for more information.



Take precautions to prevent unintentional releases.



SARA Title III Reporting

The threshold planning quantity (TPQ) for anhydrous ammonia is 500 pounds or approximately 91 gallons. Farms and retailers must report stored quantities at or above the TPQ even if the anhydrous ammonia is only on site during applications. There is no exemption for short term storage.

Notification must be made to the Michigan SARA Title III Program and the Local Emergency Planning Committee.

Notification cards for reporting are available on the back of the MSUE bulletin, "Emergency Planning on the Farm" (E-2575). You may also contact the SARA Title III Program at 517-373-8481 for assistance with reporting.

Emergency Reporting

Retailers and farms with anhydrous ammonia on site - even if it's just for a few hours in a nurse tank - have emergency reporting responsibilities. See the back of this brochure for reporting details.