



Dairy farm emergency preparedness checklist

Use this checklist to help minimise risks and prevent emergency situations.

Periodically checking your dairy property for hazards, risks and areas of vulnerability makes good business sense especially if it can be linked to a review of your emergency planning. Recognizing hazards, then taking steps to reduce or eliminate them may create a safer environment for you, your employees and visitors.

The following checklists is not all-inclusive, but may give you ideas as you review your property.

General	Yes	No	NA
Do you have a written emergency plan?			
Do you have more than one way to contact employees in an emergency?			
Does everyone (family and staff) know where to meet in an emergency?			
Do employee contractual terms allow for flexibility in an emergency?			
Do employees know what to do if a problem or situation arises – have they been trained?			
Is a list of key contact numbers available and easily found? (including milk company representative, neighbour, vet, SES, local Police, electrician, stock feed supplier, water company, etc)			
Is your property appropriately protected against crime? – lighting, locks etc			
Do you have an alarm system and is it periodically tested and operational?			
Fire Protection	Yes	No	NA
Do you have an identified refuge paddock or safe haven for livestock in the event of a grass or bushfire?			
Does your emergency plan outline who will move livestock to the safe refuge and when - what are the trigger points?			
Do you maintain an inventory recording costly assets and other details such as the length of fencing around your property?			
Do you have a seasonal work plan in place to trim edges and/or clear rubbish, leaves etc around the farm?			
Are smoke detectors installed and functioning properly in the house and shed?			
Are fire extinguishers regularly serviced?			
Are flammable liquids stored in original, labelled containers and in well-ventilated areas?			
Do tractors have functioning spark arresters?			
Storm			
Have you checked roof attachments recently and do you have a plan to prepare for highwinds or cyclones.			

Floods	Yes	No	NA
Do you and your employees know the maximum flood height for your property? E.g. when the local river height reaches XY, you need to trigger your emergency plan?			
Do you have a refuge (mound or paddock etc) where your livestock can be safely kept during a flood?			
Is the refuge big enough for all your stock?			
Do you have a stock feeding plan for emergency flood situations – including access, who is responsible, daily rations, availability of drinking water etc?			
Can livestock be fed, watered and possibly kept for a number of days in the refuge area?			
Do you have a place where feed can be stored safely in a flood?			
Can the stored feed be moved easily to the safe refuge area?			
Have you identified suitable agistment or do you have a plan ready if stock need to be moved off the farm prior to a flood event?			
Does your plan have all the necessary details to move stock e.g transport, who is responsible, what are the triggers etc?			
Do you have a system in place to monitor weather events – radio, local phone contacts upstream, websites etc?			
Do you have a list of contacts for people who can provide support and assistance in and after a flood?			
Do you have back-up computer and other important data stored offsite?			
Utilities	Yes	No	NA
Was the electrical system installed and is it maintained by a qualified electrician?			
Are electrical panels readily accessible and labelled?			
Do you have a power generator or a hard wired connection point for emergency power from a hired generator?			
Are surge suppressors protecting electrical equipment and appliances?			
Do you have a battery back-up for computers in case of electrical failure?			

Also see

www.dairyaustralia.com.au/bushfire

Contact Dairy Australia

T +61 3 9694 3777

F +61 3 9694 3888

E enquiries@dairyaustralia.com.au

www.dairyaustralia.com.au

Membership Hotline on

Freecall 1800 004 377

