

FAST Security Tips for Florida Growers and Pesticide Applicators

Some agricultural crop production materials may be targeted by criminals and should be carefully safeguarded.

TIPS TO STRENGTHEN FARM SECURITY:

- Follow all pesticide label directions.
- Secure all equipment used for pesticide/fertilizer transportation, mixing, loading, and application and adopt procedures governing how the equipment is accessed or used for pesticide/fertilizer application.
- Post "No Trespassing" and "Authorized Access Only" signs.
- Install perimeter protection, such as fences, trenches, or other appropriate barriers, around facilities and fields to limit access.
- Deliver crop production materials to secure sites and store them in secure, limited access, "out of sight" locations.
- Control access to hazardous materials loading and unloading areas.
- Manage inventory to limit the amount of stored hazardous materials, and maintain a current inventory of all hazardous materials stored on the facility.
- Inspect hazardous material storage areas regularly and maintain an inspection log.
- Have Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) available for all stored hazardous materials.
- Keep a list of emergency telephone numbers, such as fire, law enforcement, and medical contacts, readily available.

TIPS ON HAULING FERTILIZERS AND PESTICIDES:

- Check the quantity of material when loading. Compare with paperwork to be sure no product is missing. Lock trailer doors if applicable.
- Go directly to delivery point when possible, taking the best route available to avoid high population areas, tunnels, and bridges.
- Exercise extreme caution if it becomes essential to stop. Avoid unguarded and unlighted areas where theft is a substantial risk and be on your way as soon as possible.
- Be alert to vehicles following your truck, strangers asking questions, or anyone snooping around your cargo.
- Do not pick up hitchhikers, do not talk about your cargo on CB radio, and do not discuss your cargo with those not involved.
- Always telephone your customer if you find you will be late for a delivery.
- Check your load at delivery to ensure no product is missing. Do not leave product at field site unless it is well attended or secured within buildings. Always obtain a signed delivery ticket.
- Carefully check background of all new drivers. Every driver should be properly licensed and trained in good practices for handling fertilizer and pesticide chemicals that may be hazardous in the hands of dangerous people.

TIPS CONCERNING PERSONNEL:

- Develop effective hiring and labor relations policies.
- Consider background checks for current/new employees.
- Consider fingerprinting and photographing employees who handle hazardous materials
- Be aware of personal identify theft, such as stolen Social Security numbers, references, etc.
- Request employees to watch for suspicious activities and ask persons they don't recognize to identify themselves and state their reason for being on the facility.
- Know who has keys and access to hazardous material storage areas.
- Retrieve keys and employment identification cards from an employee and change computer access passwords when their employment ends.
- Assess a worker's violence potential and take appropriate security precautions when terminating or disciplining an employee.
- Develop emergency response procedures to ensure management and employees know how to respond and who to contact in care of an emergency.
- Report to appropriate authorities any suspicious activities, vehicles, persons, threats to personnel or facilities, sabotage/vandalism to facilities or equipment, and thefts, inventory shortages, or missing products that could pose a risk to public health or safety.
- Keep a list of emergency telephone numbers, such as fire, law enforcement and medical contacts, readily available.

FOR EMERGENCIES: Call 911

TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES

FOR ALL INCIDENTS:

**Florida Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services,
Law Enforcement Division: 1-800-342-5869**

**Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Security Hotline: 1-800-342-0820**

FOR FERTILIZERS:

Be Aware/Be Secure: 1-800-800-3855

**Inform you supervisor and you state association:
FFAA: 863-287-8668**

Guidelines presented by
The Florida Agricultural Security Taskforce,
A cooperative effort of Florida Citrus Mutual,
Florida Farm Bureau Foundation,
Florida Fertilizer and Agrichemical Association,
and the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association with assistance
from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer
Services and the University of Florida Institute of Food and
Agricultural Sciences

August 2004