

# How to Respond to an Emergency Situation

Editor's note: Our Tailgate Training Tip Sheets are [available in Spanish at www.gemplers.com](http://www.gemplers.com).

## KEY POINTS:

- Quickly assess emergency situations.
- Check for any additional immediate danger.
- Seek professional medical help as soon as possible.
- Avoid moving an injured person unless absolutely necessary.

*Note to trainer: Follow this script or use it to help guide you through a 10- to 15-minute training session for your ag/hort workers. You may photocopy this sheet for your employees' personal use. However, it may not be published or sold.*

*Bring to the training session a sample of the first aid kits you keep on your operation.*



## You can help save a life

- Knowing what to do if a co-worker is injured or suddenly becomes seriously ill can make the difference between life and death.
- This is especially important in rural areas, out in a field, or in other remote locations where professional medical help may be some distance away.
- When responding to an emergency, it's critical that you:
  - not panic
  - take control of the situation
  - reassure the person if he is conscious
  - know where to call for immediate medical assistance
  - act quickly to help the person until emergency medical personnel arrives



## Assessing an accident situation

1. Immediately determine whether you or the injured person are in any additional danger. For example, if the person is caught in a PTO, is the tractor's ignition turned off? Is the person trapped inside a building that's in danger of collapsing?
2. Determine whether more than one person has been injured. Be sure any additional people are out of immediate danger.
3. Determine whether the victim is conscious. Loudly call his name and ask him to respond. Also, look at the movement of his chest, and put your ear next to his mouth and nose to see if he is breathing.
4. Don't move an injured person unless he is in immediate additional danger. Moving an injured person can result in further broken bones, paralysis or even death.



**Don't move an injured person unless absolutely necessary.**

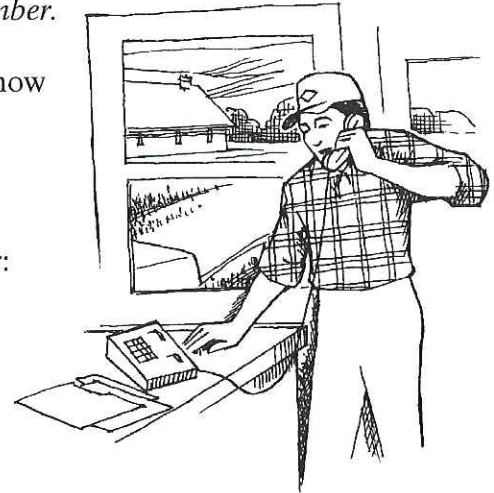
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See our [full line of safety supplies](#), including respirators, eye and ear protection, coveralls, first aid and more.

## How to Respond to an Emergency Situation

### Calling for emergency help

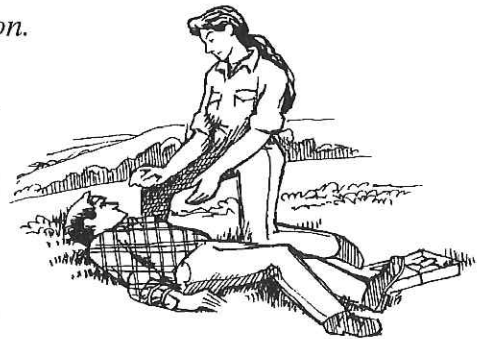
- If anyone is nearby, have that person call for emergency medical help while you stay with the victim.  
*Note to trainer: Remind trainees where you post the telephone number of the nearest emergency medical facility. If you are in an area with an emergency 911 phone number, instruct trainees to call that number.*
- If you are alone with the person and he is breathing, quickly seek medical help, then return to the scene. Let the person know that medical help is coming, and instruct him not to move.
- If the person isn't breathing and you have been trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), immediately seek professional medical help and administer CPR.
- When calling for emergency medical help, give the dispatcher:
  - your name, the telephone number from which you are calling, and the location of the victim
  - information on the nature of the emergency
  - specific instructions on how to get to the victim
- Then ask what else you can do to help.



### What to do until help arrives

- Keep the person as still and comfortable as possible.
- Administer first aid to stop bleeding if you have been trained.  
*Note to trainer: Show trainees the sample first aid kit and its contents. Let them know where [first aid kits](#) are kept at your operation.*
- Reassure the person and try to keep him calm.

*Note to trainer: This training session is not a substitute for first aid training or training in CPR. We strongly encourage employees to be trained in basic first aid, and managers and supervisors to be trained in CPR. Contact your local Red Cross, fire department, American Heart Association, First Care Program, hospital or emergency medical service for help.*



**Reassure an injured person and try to keep him calm.**

### Are there any questions?

*Note to trainer: Take time to answer trainees' questions. Then review the Emergency Response Do's and Don'ts.*

### EMERGENCY RESPONSE DO'S AND DON'TS

#### DO:

- Know where [first aid kits](#) are located.
- Know where to call for emergency medical help.
- Act quickly in an emergency, but remain calm and keep the victim still.

#### DON'T:

- Move an injured person unless he is in immediate danger.
- Hang up on an emergency dispatcher until you are told.
- Touch a person who has been electrocuted until you are certain the power is off.

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