



FAST Security Tips for Fertilizer and Pesticide Manufacturers, Dealers and Distributors

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

FACILITY CONSIDERATIONS:

- Is perimeter secure? Fenced and locked? Inspected daily for signs of attempted entry, vandalism and structural integrity?
- Is facility secure? Locked? Outside lights working and adequate to cover the facility and parking area?
- Are security systems in good working order? Cameras operational? Alarms functional? Have security guards been considered for after-business hours?
- Have you asked your local law enforcement agency to increase surveillance at your location?
- Is the door locked if the front desk is unattended?
- Do you conduct pre-employment background checks?
- Are visitors given a pass, escorted and recorded?

SALE CONSIDERATIONS:

- Do you know the customer? Is the customer a legitimate user?
- If the customer is a stranger, has an on-site inspection occurred prior to selling and delivering the requested material?
- Are cash sales restricted to known customers? Do you require a picture ID and record it?
- Are signatures required for receipt of product deliveries?
- Are deliveries made to secure storage areas, i.e., can be locked and access limited? (Exception: products purchased for immediate application)
- Have you advised your customers about the potential theft and criminal misuse of the products they are purchasing and asked them to safeguard the materials?

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, particularly if the person handles hazardous materials.
- Consider fingerprinting and photographing employees who handle hazardous materials.
- Be aware of personal identity 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.
- Adopt a company security whistleblower protection policy.
- 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 case 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: 1-800-342-0620**

FOR FERTILIZERS:

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

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

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