



Success Story: Rural Firefighters Delivering Agricultural Safety and Health



The Problem:

Agricultural workers are 8-10 times more likely to die on the job than the average U.S. worker, and this has been an enduring trend. Inadequate numbers of safety consultants exist to assist farmers in making their farms safer. However, has there been an untapped safety resource under our nose the whole time?

Our Response:

Some farm. Some show up when you call 911. Some do both. But no matter who you are in rural life, you play a role in making it safer. Rural Firefighters Delivering Agriculture Safety & Health (RF-DASH) is bringing together farmers and first responders for a big job: preventing agricultural incidents.

The Impact:

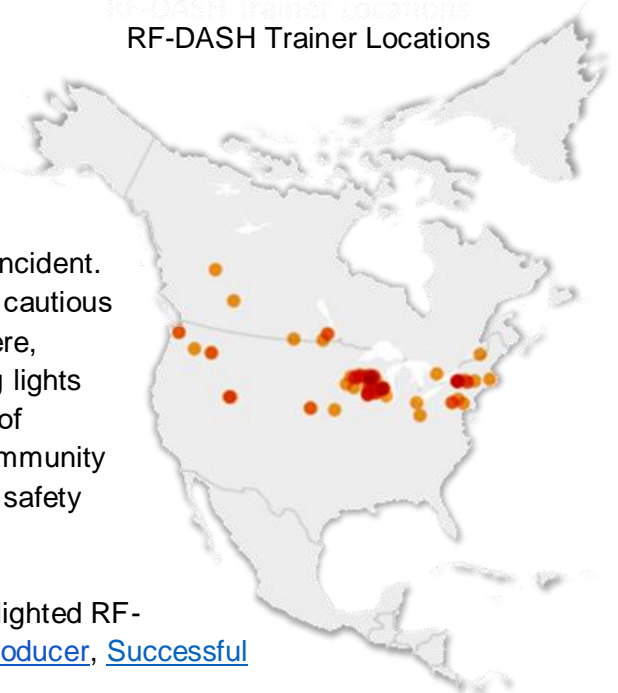
In late 2019, less than a week after attending an RF-DASH training in Wisconsin, Fire Chief Tim Carey responded to a farm incident involving a milk truck and tractor collision.

Armed with his RF-DASH knowledge, Chief Carey delivered an excellent safety message to local news on preventing such an incident. "At this time of the year, everybody needs to slow down and be cautious of all of the farm tractors out there. For all of the farmers out there, make sure you put new SMV signs, reflectors, all of the flashing lights you can have because I don't want to come out to another one of these". His statement gained popularity throughout the local community and further signified that firefighters/EMS personnel are trusted safety resources.

Multiple media sources around the U.S. and Canada have highlighted RF-DASH including: [Progressive Dairy](#), [Daily Dispatch](#), [Western Producer](#), [Successful Farming](#), and more.

Over 78 firefighters/EMS from 10 states and 5 provinces have been trained in the program. Their impact does not end there as our trainers have gone on to educate many others.

RF-DASH Trainer Locations



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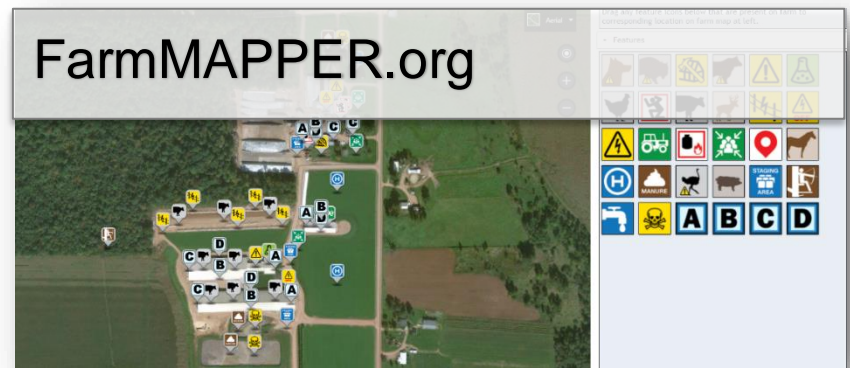
Classroom and hands-on training with easy to use, free tools:

RF-DASH uses a train-the-trainer approach, with curriculum that is in line with many National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards, including NFPA 1300 on *Community Risk Assessment and Community Risk Reduction Plan Development*. The program's curriculum and tools are **free and easy to use**:

1. Introduction to Agricultural Emergencies
2. Preplanning and Mapping farms with FarmMapper.org. A pre-plan map of farms to expedite response times and decrease damages.
3. Farm Hazard Analysis with Saferfarm.org- A hazard analysis tool to recommend abatement of common farm hazards.
4. Farm First Aid- train bystanders on immediate response to an emergency while waiting for first responders.
5. Approaching the Farm Community



Safer Farm is an ever-evolving online tool developed by the National Farm Medicine Center that assists in the hazard analysis process and enables everyone to make farm operations safer.



Farm-MAPPER is a free interactive, secure, web based tool developed by the National Farm Medicine Center providing emergency responders with a bird's eye view of onsite information about hazards, resources, and physical layouts of agricultural operations.



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