

RF-DASH Newsletter

January 2020
Volume 1, Issue 4



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Spotlight Story **Putting it into Practice**

On November 14, a group of Firefighters and EMS personnel attending the Wisconsin EMS Association Meetings were trained about the increased risks in agriculture and how they can become effective safety advocates by being prepared to safely respond to farm emergencies. One of these individuals present at the training was Stratford Fire Chief, Tim Carey.

Four days after the training on November 18, Stratford Fire with mutual aid from Mosinee and Marshfield Ambulance responded to a farm incident in rural central Wisconsin. A milk truck heading down a county road collided with a tractor in the late evening hours that sent both individuals to the hospital. Tragically, the incident resulted in the loss of the 38-year-old driver of the tractor.

Chief Carey being on scene, and having just taken the RF-DASH training a week prior, did an excellent job of communicating with the local media about actions that both farmers and the community can take to prevent such incidences from ever occurring. "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.”

Chief Carey, both a farmer and a firefighter, understands the hazards that comes with working in high risk occupations. He also understands how one incident does not only affect the ones involved, but the entire rural community. In a recent interview he stated, “To me when I see a victim of a farm accident, it’s just like when it’s someone from the fire service, even if I don’t know them it feels like I do because they are like brothers to me.”

Firefighters/EMS are seen as trusted sources when it comes to both the media and the community, and sometimes we may forget how much of an impact they can have. “The feedback I have been getting about the interview in the Stratford community has been unbelievable,” Chief Carey recalled. “I was hauling corn into ProVision and even the person running the scale complimented me on the message from the interview. I told him if that short interview gets just one farmer to put some reflectors and a new SMV sign on his equipment and that prevents another accident, I will call it a win.”

As RF-DASH enters its third year of training, the team will begin focusing on sustainability and program effectiveness. RF-DASH will rely on people like Chief Carey to implement the training in their areas, to raise awareness of the hazards that are present, and above all, be the Rural Firefighter that Delivers Agricultural Safety and Health.

For further information on the agricultural incident and Fire Chief Tim Carey’s prevention message, visit: [Tractor vs. Milk Truck Crash under Investigation \(WSAW\)](#)



Fire Chief Tim Carey talking with News Channel 7 about the incident and his message on how it can be prevented courtesy of WSAW.com.

Agriculture Rescue Training (ART)

Emergency response to farm incidents remains a challenge to rescue services. It is also challenging when less personnel in today’s rural departments have an agricultural background.

In 1982, the National Farm Medicine Center started the Farm Accident Rescue program. The program went on for 20 years increasing emergency responders awareness on farm hazards, how to preplan those responses, and use specialized equipment and techniques. We are excited to announce that with the assistance of various organizations and sponsors, the new Agricultural Rescue Training is coming back. So, mark your calendars for May 8th - 9th, 2020!

More information to come!

AGRICULTURAL RESCUE TRAINING SCENE MANAGEMENT

Save the Date

May 8th - 9th 2020

If you are not there, who will be?



A must attend program for all levels of EMS / Fire / Rescue – that deal with agricultural as well as industrial rescue incidents.

With the support of:

Auction of Champions –Fund a Need Benefactors

Heiman Holsteins

Pittsville Fire Co.

National Farm Medicine Center

Life Link III

General Information

Rescue personnel responding to farm or industrial accidents will often be entering environments more dangerous to them than other calls to which they normally respond. The goal of the program is to increase first responders' awareness of farm hazards, how to preplan those responses, and use specialized equipment and techniques. Mark your calendars now – Registration materials will be posted in January 2020. Look for more information in state wide journals and social media.



WEMSA™ EMS CONFERENCE & EXPO



Another Training in the Books!

The RF-DASH team had the opportunity to train 11 Fire/EMS through the Wisconsin EMS Association in the Wisconsin Dells, WI. Through the training, they were able to become more knowledgeable in injury prevention by identifying hazards, pre-planning and mapping farms, and applying what they had learned with hands-on experience at two local farms.

Special thanks to our assistant trainers in helping train the class and sharing your own experiences and knowledge on the RF-DASH program.

NBC Channel 15 news out of Madison, WI had also covered the training and did a great story on the RF-DASH program.

Click [here](#) to view the story.

Farm MAPPER New Icons

Check out the new icons that are available on Farm MAPPER! A poisonous gas icon and building/structure identifiers have been added.

If you believe we are missing an important MAPPER feature like an icon, let us know!





Over the past three years, the program has trained over 70 emergency responders who have gone out and trained dozens more! As the program continues to grow, the RF-DASH team will be focusing on ways we can help you map farms, conduct hazard analysis, and train others on ways to make agriculture a safer community. If you will be needing resources to support travel, mapping farms, or you are interested in conducting an RF-DASH training, let us know. If you also have any suggestions that can help improve the program, we would appreciate hearing from you.

We will assist you in any way we can on helping you be the Rural Firefighter that Delivers Agriculture Safety and Health!

Reach out to:
RFDASH@marshfieldresearch.org

Or Call 715-389-7947

Incentives for SNA Interviews

The RF-DASH Team is Needing Your Participation!

The RF-DASH team is conducting interviews with RF-DASH trainers. We will be reaching out to you to schedule a time to complete the social network analysis survey. No matter your level of involvement with the project, we still want to hear from you! It shouldn't take anymore than an hour of your time. We will be having in-person and phone interviews.

We will be providing a **\$5.00** gift card to Walmart for every social network analysis survey that has been completed with a possibility of earning **up to \$20 per year**. If you have already participated in an interview, we will be following up with you for an address to send your incentive.

We thank you for your time, and for making agriculture a safer and healthier community!

Contact:
RFDASH@marshfieldresearch.org

715-389-7947

RF-DASH in the News

Program trains first responders to respond to farm accidents



By Gabriella Rusk | Posted: Thu 4:53 PM, Nov 14, 2019 | Updated: Thu 6:06 PM, Nov 14, 2019



MADISON, Wis. (WMTV) - The Rural Firefighter Delivering Agricultural Safety and Health Training Course is working to train firefighters how to respond to farm emergencies.

The National Farm Medicine Center has found the farming industry is one of the most dangerous in the United States.

"You're about seven to eight times more likely to die in a farm accident than other jobs," said Dr. Casper Bendixson, the director of the National Farm Medicine Center.

Accidents can include entrapment or entanglement with heavy farm equipment or confined spaces.

The Rural Firefighter Delivering Agricultural Safety and Health Training Course, or RF DASH, is looking to train firefighters to be more familiar with farm accidents.

"Today we have less farms and we have less firefighters," said Bendixson. "20 to 30 years ago, you had a lot of first responders who were from the farm and they understood the farm environment."

Pittsville Fire Company Chief Jerry Minor says half of his department had a farm background but now only less than ten percent grew up on a farm.

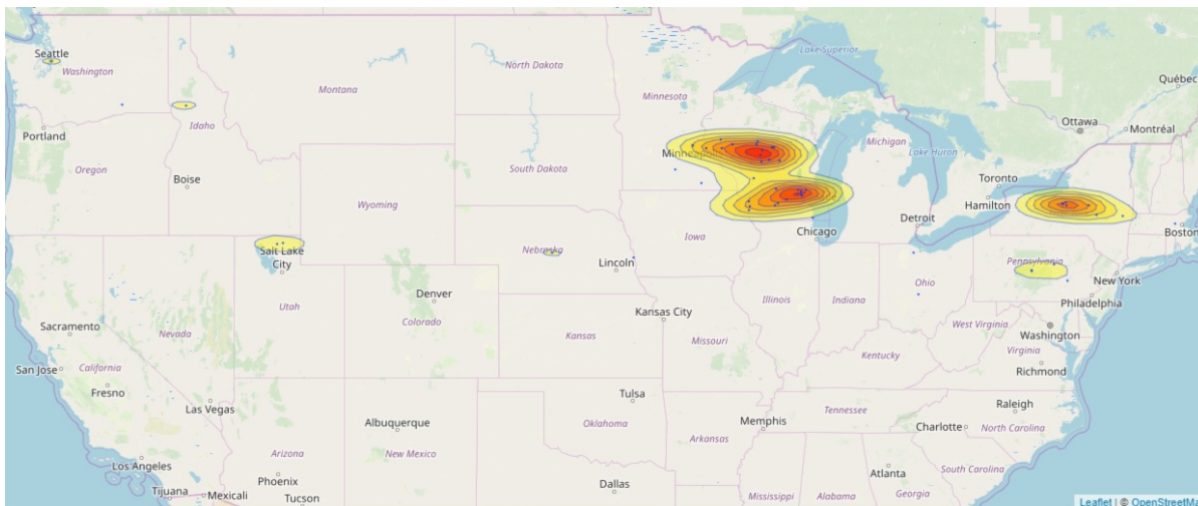


NBC Channel 15 News



Podcast from Off Farm Income about RF-DASH

Our Impact



Current and New Project Members in Our Journey to a Safer Farm Community

• Allenton, WI, Training Participants

- John Breuer
- Mark Steger
- Ron Naab
- Ryan Elbe
- David Beck
- Tim Herman
- Jeff Infalt
- Kevin Whelan
- Carl Wolf
- Stephanie Plaster
- William Hinkley
- Bernie Wolf



• Wausau, WI, Training Participants

- Missy Kliebenstein
- Dan Kliebenstein
- Andrea Stelpflug
- Gary Eloranta
- Justin Athorp
- Ella Dzubay
- Jim Zwaschka
- Angie Yerke
- Andrew Yerke
- Jeff Behselich
- Kathy Fritsche
- Sara Mattke



• Elbridge, NY, Training Participants

- Rich Lamphere
- Michael Plunkett
- Ryan Peters
- Timothy Knapp
- Matthew Alfurtis
- Fred Laury
- Paul Czarnecki



- Daniel Hogan
- Mike Caron
- David Cawston
- Doug Blumer
- Floyd Duger
- **Menomonie, WI, Training Participants**
 - Dave Pike
 - Pete Hoffman
 - Dan Enestvedt
 - Randy Younker
 - Chad Smith
 - Brady Bleskacek
 - Josh Romsos
 - Christal Foreyt
 - Tony Wold
 - Kathleen Shear
- **Minneapolis, MN, Training Participants**
 - Stephen Brown
 - Nicholas Coble
 - Jason Conklin
 - Edward Kasner
 - Shari Kuther
 - Dave Kuther
 - Erik Merrell
 - Justin Norr
 - Amanda Norr
 - Jill Oatman
 - Michael Pate
 - Lisa Pfeifer
 - Eric Rickenbach
 - Guy Santelli
 - Megan Schossow
 - Albert Smith
 - Pat Zulkoski
 - David Bloom
- **Wisconsin Dells, Training Participants**
 - Vern Butzine
 - Laurel Carey
 - Tim Carey
 - Jayce Harder
 - Jessie Heisz
 - Tom McCarrier
 - Jason Olds
 - Peter Pomerening
 - Bill Raflik
 - Matthew Schleusner
 - Warren Stanke

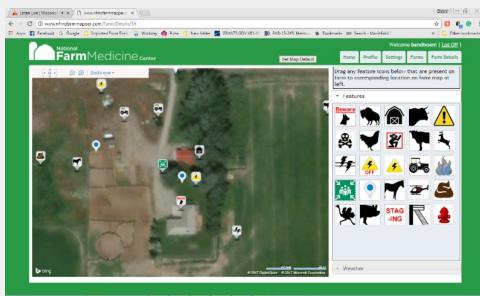


The RF-DASH Directory represents all of the individuals that have taken the RF-DASH training and are now Farm Hazard Analysts. Please contact the individuals in your region when seeking more information about the program. This includes farmers looking for emergency pre-planning, hazard analysis, and first aid training as well as other rural emergency responders wanting to be trained to be a Farm Hazard Analyst. For contact information on any of the above Farm Hazard Analysts, click on the button below for the

[Click Here For The Contact Directory](#)

If you would like to be removed from the contact directory, please e-mail RFDASH@marshfieldresearch.org.

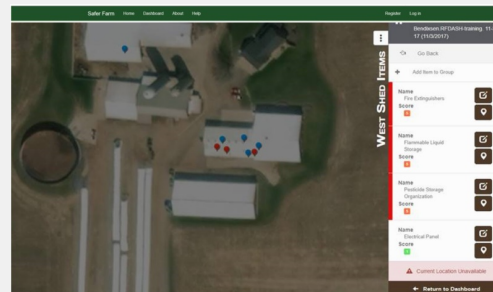
[Click Here For The RF-DASH Success Story!](#)



Farm MAPPER

This web tool allows for digital maps of farming operations to provide emergency responders on-site information about hazards and resources. The goal is to expedite responses to farm emergencies and protect responders who may be unfamiliar with an individual farms layout.

[Click Here For More Info](#)



SaferFarm.org

SaferFarm.org is an ever-evolving online tool. Its development is led by the National Farm Medicine Center with the purpose of providing first-hand information about hazards, a process for evaluating hazards, and recommendations on correcting hazards.

[Click Here For More Info](#)

Brochure

"We are here to help the farmers look at themselves, and hopefully they will eliminate some accidents. If they don't have to call firefighters/EMS, then it has been a success."

Cary Eloranta
Battalion Chief, River Falls Fire Department

Contact Us:

To learn more about the RF-DASH program, visit:
umash.umn.edu/rfdash

If you have any questions, or would like more information, please contact:
rfdash@marshfieldresearch.org or call us at 715-380-7947



Help Us Help Ourselves and Your Farm

We are your local firefighters/EMS, and we want to be a resource for your farm. The RF-DASH program utilizes existing networks of firefighter/EMS in order to pre-plan emergency responses to local farms and ranches as well as provide brief farm safety consultations. These consultations are designed to improve farm safety and reduce the number of farm emergencies.



Why Should I Participate?

This program is meant to partner farmers together in order to prevent firefighter/EMS injuries in responding to farm emergencies and reduce the overall number of farm injuries and fatalities. By allowing fire departments to become more familiar with your farm, you will be promoting the overall health and safety of your farm and the rural community.



Local Fire/EMS Department Contact Information:

Fire/EMS Department: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____



Rural Firefighters Delivering Agricultural Safety and Health

"Farmers and Firefighters/EMS Working Together for Each Other's Safety"

RF-DASH is funded by the Upper Midwest Agriculture Safety and Health Center (UMASH) through a cooperative agreement from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), USA4H010170.



Pre-Planning

Emergency responders show up to an environment they may not know where the hazards or important resources are located. Pre-planning and mapping using www.rfdashmapper.org allows emergency responders to receive access to a bird's eye view of the farm and know where all of the hazards/resources are located to expedite response times and reduce the damage on a farm.

Farm Safety Consultation

Wouldn't you like to reduce the chance of an emergency in the first place? RF-DASH trained personnel can generate a safety hazard report, using the secure mobile friendly tool at www.saferfarm.org. This is friendly third party advice and not to be confused with OSHA or insurance company reports.

Farm First Aid

RF-DASH trainers are also equipped to provide farm first aid training for farmers, workers, and their families. This training will teach farm families the basics of how to respond if there is an emergency and increase chances of survival. This standard first aid course is tailored to the farm environment and emphasizes injury prevention knowledge.

RF-DASH trained responders are respectful and appreciative of a farmer's time. Only two hours of your time are required to assess your farm for safety. Details about your farm will not be shared with anyone other than the fire/EMS department. Because every farm is different, we do want to make sure that we can better respond to an emergency on every farm, which also means continuing to do what you love - farming.

To Print Off a Copy, Click Here!

This brochure is a tool that can be used to give information on RF-DASH to farmers, e.g. if fire departments or we need help explaining why they should be involved. It discusses how RF-DASH can help farmers by working together with their local fire/EMS to make their farms safer for both them and their families, as well as, the fire/EMS department. It can be difficult trying to describe to farmers what our intentions are when it comes to their involvement with RF-DASH on their farms. Despite our best intentions, we can be met with hesitation and/or unwillingness to be a part of the program. This is why we believe this brochure can better inform farmers on their actual involvement. If you would like to print off some copies for yourself, you can always find it on the UMASH webpage umash.umn.edu/RFDASH.

Technical Issues?

If you are having any technical difficulties with Safer Farm, Farm MAPPER, etc., please reach out to RFDASH@marshfieldresearch.org. The RF-DASH team will help to find a solution, or connect you with someone that can.

If you ever have any questions, don't hesitate to touch base with us! You can reach out to any of the following:

Cap Bendixsen



Kate Barnes



Kyle Koshalek



Megan Sauer



Emily Redmond



Matt Pilz



Andrea Swenson



RF-DASH Team:

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- Jim Carrabba: jim.carrabba@bassett.org
- Stephen Brown: shb5060@psu.edu



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