

RF-DASH Newsletter



**RF-DASH Trainers Leading
Program Growth**

**July 2024
Issue #13**

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Joint Ag Rescue Training and RF-DASH Event: October 24-26, 2024

The annual Ag Rescue Training (ART) Event and Train-the-Trainer Course will take place on October 25 & 26 near Marshfield, WI. This is the LAST YEAR of the ART program at this site, where it has taken place each year since 2020. Since it is ART's last year, we decided to add something extra to the standard ART programming: An RF-DASH Training on October 24, 2024.

ART and RF-DASH are like sister programs. ART focuses on training firefighters in the technical rescue aspects of agricultural emergencies. RF-DASH, on the other hand, focuses on training first responders and other rural community members in strategies and programs to prevent agricultural injuries and incidents. Technical rescue and emergency prevention are both important aspects of mitigating the harmful impacts of ag-related injuries and fatalities, so it made perfect sense to bring RF-DASH and ART together.

In total, there will be three agricultural emergency training events from October 24-26, 2024:

- 1) RF-DASH Training
- 2) ART Train-the-Trainer
- 3) ART Event (Presentations & Workshops)

Participants can choose to attend all the events or one of the events. Each involves a separate registration.

The **RF-DASH training** will take place Thursday, October 24, 2024. It will involve updated versions of all five RF-DASH modules and a farm walk-through to practice pre-planning and hazard assessment. There is also an optional RF-DASH program improvement round table on Friday, October 25, from 3:30 to 5:00 PM.



The **ART Train-the-Trainer** course takes place on Friday, October 25, 2024, from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. In the course, participants will walk through presentations and materials for each of the ART workshops, equipping them with the ability to conduct their own ART training at a future date.

The **ART Event** begins with presentations on agricultural emergency topics from 5:30 to 9:30 PM on Friday, October 25, 2024. Then continues with a series of hands-on workshops from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Saturday, October 26, 2024. The ART Workshops this year include: 1) Tractor Rollover; 2) Confined Spaces on the Farm (NEW THIS YEAR); 3) Grain Bin Rescue; 4) Equipment Extrication; 5) Large Animal Technical Rescue.

By Jakob Hanschu, Research Specialist at
the National Farm Medicine Center

Visit agrescue.org for more info!

AGRICULTURE RESCUE TRAINING

Save the Date
October 25-26, 2024

For More Information visit
AGRESCUE.org



If you're not there, who will be?

BONUS EVENT:

RF-DASH Training | October 24, 2024

Registration fees for all events will be waived for Extension faculty & staff and technical college instructors.

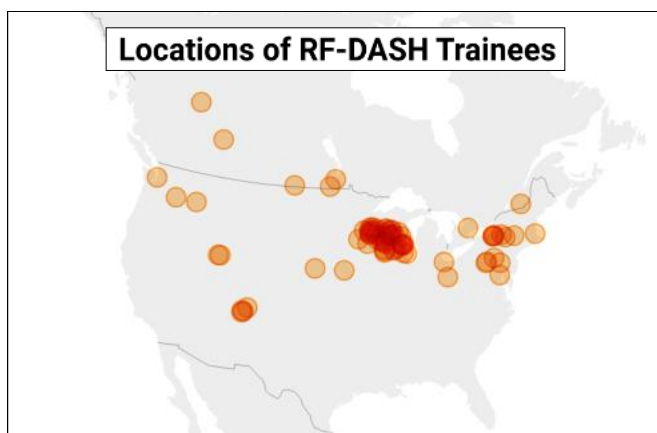


Spotlight Story

Striking Out on Their Own: Devoted RF-DASH Trainees Lead Program Growth

We recently updated the section of the RF-DASH website where it lists how many first responders the program had reached. To date, we have record of 134 individuals from 12 U.S. states and 5 Canadian provinces completing the training. However, those numbers only include the persons trained by RF-DASH Master Trainers and staff.

It is likely that many more first responders, farmers, and other rural community members have been influenced by the RF-DASH program than the 134 we list. Just last week, we received word from a gentleman in New York state that found our materials online and delivered them to 50-70 persons in his and neighboring departments. We've heard many stories like this, and also know that the people we train often go on to do trainings of their own, spreading the RF-DASH program even further. We once did a study where we asked a group of trainees how they further spread the RF-DASH program in the year after they were trained. The 23 trainees in that study had reached 478 additional persons. Based on those results, we can estimate that the 134 persons we've trained have reached over 2,500 people.



This expansive reach of the RF-DASH program is primarily due to our devoted trainees. The folks that have gone through the RF-DASH program have proven themselves to be a dedicated and energetic bunch, and we are very grateful for the time and effort they've applied toward growing the program.

For the rest of this Spotlight Story, I will highlight a recent training completed by the RF-DASH team in Baldwin, Wisconsin. This training is significant, because it was primarily organized by Gary Eloranta, one of our prior trainees who took the train-the-trainer aspect of the RF-DASH program to heart. Eloranta attended one of the first RF-DASH training events and then attended our 2023 training in La Crosse as a refresher. Since then, he's been very active in promoting the RF-DASH program in his and neighboring departments.

This training was the first time that the RF-DASH team was involved in a training organized by a previous trainee. The training took place over two Monday evenings in July. For the first Monday evening, RF-DASH master trainers delivered the five modules in a lecture format. The following Monday, Eloranta led a farm walk-through to practice pre-planning and hazard identification with the participants. Breaking the RF-DASH training up over two nights was effective because it allowed for the training to better fit into existing fire department training time slots.

31 fire/EMS personnel attended the lectures and 21 attended the on-farm training. Most of the Trainees were from United Fire & Rescue (consolidation of

RF-DASH

local departments from Baldwin, Hammond, and Woodville) and Ellsworth Fire Department, with a few other departments represented. This was also a change from prior RF-DASH trainings. Previously, we tried to maximize the number of departments present at a training by limiting the number of participants from each department. With this training, we shifted philosophies. The shift is best captured by a quote from Sam McGrane, the training officer for United Fire and the host of the training: “I’ve got 70 people in my department. If I can get 20-30 to a specialized training event like this, there’s a good chance that if we get an ag emergency call, at least one of the people responding will have done the training.”

All in all, the training was undoubtedly a success. The model of bringing in the RF-DASH team to deliver the lecture portion of the training one evening, followed by one of the fire department members previously trained in RF-DASH leading an on-farm training a different evening worked great.

We are thankful for our energetic and committed RF-DASH trainees and trainers that make the program



RF-DASH Master Trainer and Pittsville, WI Fire Company Chief Jerry Minor delivers a RF-DASH Module 2 on Farm Emergency Pre-Planning.

happen. If you were previously trained in the RF-DASH program and would like to conduct your own training please reach out to the RF-DASH Team (rfdash@marshfieldresearch.org). We would love to support any RF-DASH training efforts to the best of our ability, whether that be through time, materials, logistics, or anything else.

By Jakob Hanschu, Research Specialist at
the National Farm Medicine Center

Manure Gas Incident Prevention Message

On June 13, 2024, two men, 33-year-old Nathan Doody and 29-year-old Tyler Memory, died as a result of manure gases at a farm in Clinton, New York. Doody and Memory worked as manure haulers and also served as volunteer firefighters. According to WKTV, the Kirkland Police Department stated that one of the men went to retrieve a piece of equipment that had fallen into a manure tanker but became incapacitated and fell into the tanker. The second man was similarly overcome by manure gas as he tried to help the first. Workers at the farm found the men and called 9-1-1.

Manure gases—methane, ammonia, carbon dioxide, and hydrogen sulfide, with the latter being

deadliest—are formed by the decomposition of manure and create some of the most hazardous environments on agricultural operations. Manure gases pose particular danger when manure is agitated, when ventilation systems are not functioning properly, and in confined spaces.

It is a safe bet to assume that manure gases are always present in storage areas and take the proper precautions. Further, if your fire department has a four gas monitor, we encourage you inform your community about it and to use it with farmers completing manure-related work.

By Jakob Hanschu, Research Specialist at
the National Farm Medicine Center

Heated Haying: A Prevention Message from a Utah RF-DASH Trainer

With it being the middle part of July I thought would share as a reminder how quick things can go from good to bad. The story I'm going to tell happened to me in June out on my dry farm in Promontory, Utah. It would take fire and EMS a minimum of 45 minutes to get to the farm. Fortunately, I planned and prepared to the best that I could.

I had been out to the dry farm for 10 days swathing and baling fall 3-grain forage and alfalfa with plans to swath the volunteer rye for straw. As I cut the last of the 3-grain forage, I started to smell smoke.

I stopped and discovered that a bearing had gone bad on the auger of the swather. It was causing plant matter to wrap around the stem of the auger, creating heat and actually starting some of the plant matter on fire. I initially couldn't see the smoke because of its location on the swather.

Once I opened up the auger shield I could tell what was happening. Since I have not been able to purchase a fire extinguisher yet, I had filled a plastic handheld garden sprayer with water. I immediately started to spray water where I saw the smoke.

In the attached photo you can see how little plant matter was actually burning as well as how much plant matter I removed from the shaft of the auger where the bearing should have been. If I hadn't stopped the machine when I did, things could have gone bad fast. As it turned out, I was able to prevent the fire from spreading.

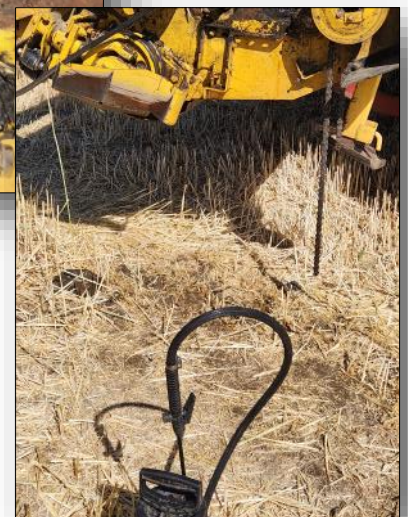
My hope was to share this earlier, right after it happened, but I have been busy until now. My hope is that sharing this story now will prevent future fires and get people to think about prevention. I especially want to encourage people

to think about safety during times of pressure, like when the harvest is on and you're trying to get the crop in before something happens and spoils it. Fire definitely spoils a crop. Burned up equipment definitely delays further harvest and costs more. In my county there have been 3 tractor fires completely destroying the equipment. There have also been a handful of hay stack fires.

I hope by sharing my story it helps prevent someone else from having a tragedy. Thank you all for what you do for agriculture.

By Justin Norr, RF-DASH Trainer, Farmer, and Rural Firefighter/EMS in Deweyville, Utah

The RF-DASH Team welcomes stories and prevention messages from trainers/trainees for our Newsletters. Please send submissions to rfdash@marshfieldresearch.org.



Tips for Farmers when Calling Emergency Dispatch (9-1-1) was developed by Utah State Extension and RF-DASH Trainers. We encourage our RF-DASH trainees and other rural first responders to disseminate it to farm families in their area.

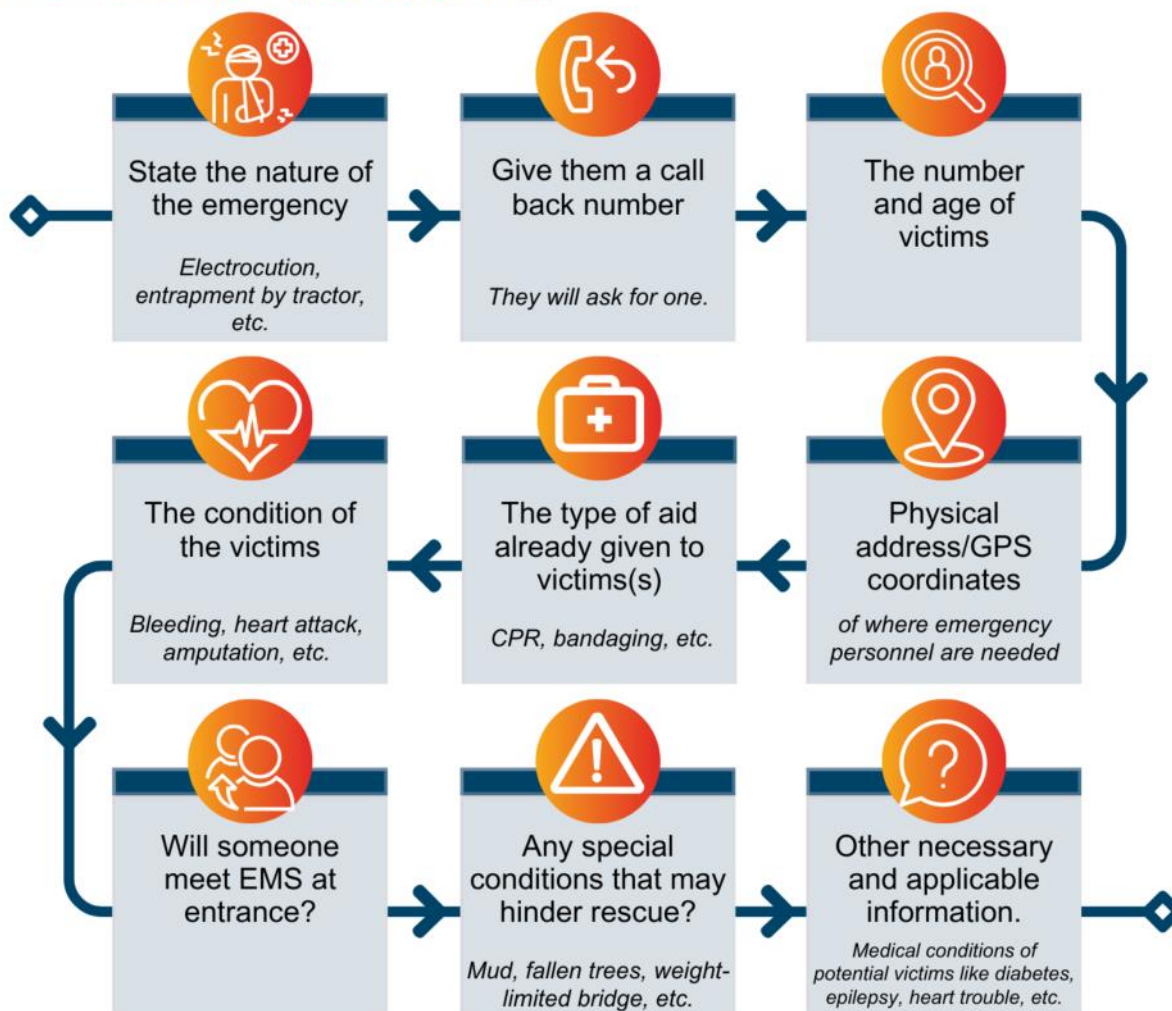
Access the 9-1-1 Tips Sheet [HERE](#)

Tips for Farmers when Calling Emergency Dispatch (911)

Rural Firefighters Delivering Agricultural Safety and Health (RF-DASH)

What to say & include when talking to dispatch:

“Hi, my name is [state your full name (first and last)] I need Fire/Ambulance/Police/Other for...”



*If it is a fire emergency, **provide the location** and **type of source water** such as a pond, canal, or hydrant. Make sure to provide specific miles and road names and mention visible landmarks.



If needed, **enable the speaker feature** on your phone.



Do not hang up the phone until the dispatcher tells you to!



Follow any instructions given by dispatch!

Source: Murphy, D. J. and D. E. Hill. 1997. *First-on-the-Scene-For-Farm-Families: Instructor's Guide*. Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA. 33 pp.



Rural Firefighters Delivering Agricultural Safety and Health (RF-DASH)



RF-DASH Resources Reminder

The RF-DASH team wanted to remind folks that there are many resources freely available to download, save, and print on the 'Resources' page of the RF-DASH website (<https://rfdash.org/resources/>). The materials on this page are handy if you're looking to promote the program, host your own training, or simply spread the word about RF-DASH. They will be updated as possible. Resources include:

- Training Materials
 - Training Manual coming SOON!
 - Slides and print outs for RF-DASH modules 1-5.
 - RF-DASH media guidelines ([link](#)).
 - Additional farm first aid scenarios from Penn State.
- Informational Materials
 - RF-DASH info sheets for US ([link](#)) and Canada ([link](#)).
 - RF-DASH brochure ([link](#)).
 - Farm MAPPER flyer ([link](#)).
 - Safer Farm flyer ([link](#)).
- Resources
 - Customizable RF-DASH business card ([link](#)).
 - Directory of fellow RF-DASH trainers ([link](#)).
 - RF-DASH posters ([link](#) & [link](#)).
 - List of the top hazards to watch for on farms ([link](#)).
 - *****NEW***** Tips for Farmers when Calling Emergency Dispatch ([link](#)).
- RF-DASH Newsletter
 - All previous RF-DASH newsletters.
- Training Videos
 - Video overviews of modules 1-5 as well as an introduction to the Safer Farm tool.



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