

Safety Guidelines

Educate everyone about hazards around waste storages, including deadly gases.

Install and maintain appropriate safety signs, safety fence, gates, locks, barriers, etc.

Consider using a safety harness when working inside the fence on sloped/plastic-lined manure storages.

Rescue equipment, such as floatation devices and rope, should be available when unloading or agitating open storages.

Never work alone. The second person's role is to summon help in an emergency and assist with rescue without entering the storage.

Do not enter enclosed spaces without the proper safety equipment such as a self-contained breathing apparatus.

Agitation of manure containing gypsum bedding, high sulfur water, silage leachate or brewers grain for feed can produce excessively high amounts of deadly gas.

Removal of livestock is recommended when buildings are over or adjacent to waste storages. Natural ventilation may not be enough to defuse gases. Keep all others away from area and out of adjacent buildings.



Properly installed safety features on a open manure pit.



This manure storage has several safety issues, such as a gap in fence, gate left open, and signage that is ready to fall off.

Waste Storage Facility Safety



Why Safety Is Important

Each year, people and animals die as a result of being near or working at manure storages. Owners and operators are required by Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regulations to install and maintain proper fencing, gates, safety signs, lids, and barriers in accordance with approved storage facility design.

Owners and operators should also educate their employees, contract help, and visitors of the danger and keep them away from the area.

This brochure focuses on current and new signage. Suggestions for location, type, and number of signs is listed. The newest sign warning about dangerous gases during agitation was a result of fatalities or near fatal events at open storages using gypsum bedding.

Contact your local Conservation District, NRCS office, Extension Service or your consulting firm for more info.

Safety Signs can be obtained from:

U.S.Municipal Supply Inc.
1-800-222-1920
Or

Local Conservation District, Waste Storage Facility Installers, Local Sign Manufacturers, or self made

Warning and Safety Sign Options



Place this type of sign at each entrance/ access point of a manure storage pond, in-ground uncovered storage structure or on each accessible side of a storage pond.

Example locations: Open storage tanks, earthen storage ponds, storage ponds with liners.



Place this type of sign at each entrance/ access point to a below-ground storage pit, a covered ground level storage and all manure hoppers and reception pits.

Example locations: Collection hoppers, slatted pits, septic tanks that hold milking center and manure wastes and any other confined space where waste is collected.



Place this type of sign at each agitation point and pump out location. Also place one where visitors or children might congregate.

Example locations: All agitation/pump out locations of open or covered waste storages. Any areas where visitors or children might gather.

IMPORTANT! A sign is designed to serve as a reminder of a hazard and its consequence(s) – it does not replace or substitute for training and following your site specific design and associated safety information. All those working around these facilities should know about the dangers and have access to emergency numbers. If you do not have a such safety information work with your consultant, local Conservation District or NRCS for assistance.