

Timely first aid has saved many lives on the farm. Because of the distance from immediate medical attention, a thorough knowledge of approved first aid methods is vital for every farm family. In an emergency situation, rapid response can mean the difference between life and death or saving or losing a limb. Make sure that at least one member of your family is qualified in first aid and has at least completed a basic first aid course. Contact your family doctor or your local Red Cross chapter for information on first aid courses available. Your local farm organization may be able to organize courses in your community.

Establishing a communication system for all your employees who work alone is an essential first step for a safe work environment. Communicate with your workers at scheduled and regular intervals. Workers should be aware at all times of their longitudinal and latitudinal coordinates in an event a “life flight” is needed. It will be much easier to locate an injured person who has an exact location, compared to directions that simply state the injured person is “located in the north 40 by the big tree past the coulee.”



## **The following are some simple safeguards to live by:**

- Place emergency phone numbers and GPS coordinates by every phone.
- Program all cell phones with emergency numbers and GPS coordinates.
- Keep a first aid kit in your shop or house. Know how to use it.
- Have a small first aid kit in trucks and in the tractor toolbox.
- Encourage young people to get involved with first aid training through FFA, 4-H, Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts, or other youth organizations.
- Ask your family doctor to show you the approved methods for controlling severe bleeding. Pass this information on to all family members.
- Never use a tourniquet unless there is no other way to stop the bleeding.
- In the event of serious injury, have someone notify your family doctor, and call ahead to the medical facility where the victim will be taken. Advise them of the type of injury and approximate arrival time so that your doctor, and appropriate medical care, will be waiting for the patient.