

Ag Zone Security

Due to increased concerns about terrorism and sabotage, national security measures are being extended to include agricultural zones. All farms should have some measure of site security in place to minimize terrorist or crime activities, as well as to protect assets. This is especially true for operations that store and handle hazardous chemicals.

Basic security measures should include fences, walls, locked doors and alarm systems. In addition, security lighting (good lighting around buildings, storage tanks and storage areas) can make it very difficult for someone to trespass undetected. Intrusion detection systems, such as video surveillance and motion detectors, provide an even higher level of security.

Before taking steps to improve site security, you may want to evaluate your current system and determine what improvements, if any, are needed. Decisions about improving site security should be made after evaluating how vulnerable the chemicals are to threats. Factors to consider include:

- **The chemicals stored at your site** – Some chemicals may be especially attractive targets because of the potential for greater consequences if released.
- **Reduce the amount of chemicals stored** – This will not only help reduce the possibility for theft, but will also reduce community concerns about farm chemicals being a terrorist target.
- **The location of the site** – Easy access is also attractive. If possible, locate storage away from roads.
- **Current site security measures** – Are the existing security systems (i.e., fences, security lighting, security patrols) adequate to limit access?
- The type of buildings – Older buildings may be more vulnerable because of easier access.
- **Hours of business** – Operations with minimal hours or fewer employees may affect security.