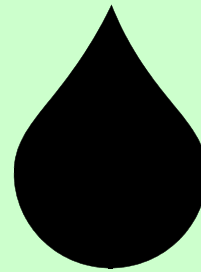


Groundwater

AGRI-BUSINESS STEWARDSHIP

*Brought to you by the Michigan Agri-Business Association
through a grant from the Michigan Water Stewardship Program*



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The objective of this document is to provide you with current and helpful information regarding water protection, and the Michigan Water Stewardship Program (MWSP).

Using anhydrous ammonia

Throughout Michigan, producers use anhydrous ammonia as a source of nitrogen fertilizer for crops. Anhydrous ammonia offers several advantages. It is easily available and an affordable form of nitrogen. However, anhydrous ammonia also has drawbacks, especially when it comes to handling it. Anhydrous ammonia must be stored and handled under high pressure, which requires specially designed and well-maintained equipment. Workers also must be trained to handle anhydrous ammonia and follow strict work procedures to ensure it is handled safely.

Agricultural producers and dealers are strongly urged to be familiar with the safe use, storage and handling of anhydrous ammonia. Handled properly, anhydrous ammonia is a useful resource that can help strengthen crop production while protecting our groundwater.

Here are some tips for handling anhydrous ammonia safely:

- Always have an ample water supply nearby;
- Always wear personal protective equipment and clothing;
- Never fill a tank more than 85 percent of its capacity;
- Inspect hoses and valves on a regular basis;
- Replace hoses at least every 5 years;
- Bleed off pressure in the hose before disconnecting;
- Stay away from hose and valve openings;
- Follow step-by-step procedures when using the equipment;
- Never try to repair the tank yourself; always consult a qualified technician;
- Do not tamper with relief valves; and
- Use a proper hitch, safety chains and a Slow Moving Vehicle (SMV) sign when towing on the highway.

Also, keep anhydrous ammonia away from thieves, who steal it to make methamphetamines.

With proper precautions, anhydrous ammonia can be handled and used safely. It is imperative that all equipment is properly maintained and checked daily. A regular, scheduled maintenance program will help ensure that all valves and the tank are safe for handling the high pressure liquid and its vapor form.

Michigan's agriculture community is working hard to make sure businesses, growers and all parties in the agriculture community follow regulations on the safe use of anhydrous ammonia, which is an important element in successful agriculture.

For additional information and contact numbers for spill or release reporting please [click here](#).

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