

BIOSECURITY FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

What is biosecurity?

Measures that need to be taken to keep a disease from traveling from farm to farm.

First Responders should keep these measures in mind when responding to a farm with poultry, particularly if you are in a building or walk through poultry litter. Viruses and bacteria can be carried on shoes, clothing and equipment.

SUGGESTED MEASURES:

- The inside of your vehicle is designated as a clean area. Use your trunk and garbage bags to store dirty items.
- Please adhere to biosecurity measures when responding to a call.

ARRIVAL – Keep hands, boots and rigs clean, use new boot covers at each farm site. Try not to drive or walk in or around with the poultry or their manure, bedding, litter or pasture.

PREVENT – Vehicles are a great means of transmission. If you see loose birds (chickens, turkeys, geese, etc.) try to park away from the birds. Keep your windows up to prevent flies from entering your clean area. Gather your garbage bags, hand sanitizer and wipes prior to your visit.

CLEAN-UP – Remove contaminated surfaces (disposable gloves, boot covers, etc.) and place in a garbage bag, tie the bag and leave the secured bag on site or in a secure dumpster. If available, spray disinfectant such as Virkon S onto the tires and undercarriage of vehicle before leaving the site. Clean hands/wrists with hand sanitizer. The vehicle needs to be washed (car wash or power washer) after the site visit. Washing the underside of the vehicle and tires is essential.

Emergency response is a priority. If you respond without biosecurity measures, cleanup is most important.

Biosecurity is important to Minnesota livestock producers and yourself. If you have poultry at home, you can bring home the disease if not careful. Not all poultry will show signs of disease, so prevention is the best measure.