



## EMERGENCY PLAN

For these purposes, an actual farm emergency situation would be in the event of a mass animal release and resulting mortality event. This could occur as a result of an intentional release or an extreme weather related event (tornado, flood, etc.)

It is vital that each mink farmer know what to do, to prevent or minimize the damage in case of an emergency. Disaster recovery should be a major consideration in any over-all security plan. “Hope for the Best, Plan for the Worst”

The first priority is always the safety of you and your family. In the case of an intentional release, and you believe the perpetrators may still be on the property, call 911 immediately. If you are sure the attackers have fled, your first priority should then be to secure your perimeter and save the animals. In the event of an extreme weather emergency, personal safety should also be considered before addressing the mink. Be sure you have the following items prepared and readily available on site:

- Phone Tree
- Bailing wire and/or chicken wire and zip ties
- Nets
- Handling Gloves
- Working Flashlights
- Radios
- Large containers (trash cans or barrels) to collect the animals
- Traps

We also recommend that piles of bedding material be located near the perimeter or in the yard, as many released mink will burrow into those. Additionally, start up the feed carts near the fence as the animals will be attracted to the sound. Have a plan to quickly close perimeter fencing in the event of an attack.

Emergency Protocol.

1. Call 911 or local law enforcement agency (see above), then the primary contact on your phone tree. That person should then contact nearby farmers and neighbors to come help with securing the animals. Phone trees do not need to be extensive or complicated. Key players need to be included in the recovery effort as soon as possible and these are the first names included in phone tree list. Include Fur Commission USA on your list of primary contacts. Many times multiple events may occur in a short time period and warning other ranchers is critical.
2. Secure the perimeter. Use the bailing/chicken wire to temporarily repair holes created in fencing and gates to control access to the mink yard, preventing any further mink from breaching the perimeter.



3. Employees and/or family members should have designated areas they are responsible for securing. This is a team effort, and the more efficient you can be the more any damage will be limited.
4. Designate a family member or employee to coordinate and hand out equipment (nets, gloves, etc.) to volunteer helpers as they arrive.
5. Designate a trusted neighbor or fellow mink farmer to represent the farmer if media arrives before a prepared representative has made contact. The rancher should **NOT ADDRESS THE MEDIA** in this situation. Emotions are running high and the rancher should focus on animal rescue.