

# Market Safety and Emergency Preparedness

Being prepared for emergencies and making your market as safe as possible just makes sense. The combination of moving parts at any farmers market is potent: setting up/breaking down tents, tables, power cords to trip over, lugs of produce to fall; vendors, staff and the shoppers full of purpose; not to mention every sort of weather, and being in an open public space.

Fortunately, the Michigan Farmers Market Association (MIFMA) has an excellent 32-page resource that provides a thorough overview how to be prepared for a wide variety of emergencies. Downloading this resource and adapting it for your specific market could be a simple way of being prepared and training your staff, volunteers, vendors, and board members. You might also want to find out if who among your market staff, volunteers or vendors have current first aid, CPR, or any other medical training?

## “Emergency Procedures for Farmers Markets”

[www.mifma.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/Final-Flipchart.pdf](http://www.mifma.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/Final-Flipchart.pdf)

Contents include:

- Checklist of materials to have available at your information booth (e.g. first aid kit, gloves, flashlight, etc.);
- “Call for Help” template for key phone numbers;
- “Emergency Contacts” template;
- Emergency Reporting incident report template;
- Incident Report Form;
- Emergency Evaluation Procedure and Script;
- Medical Emergency – what to do;
- Blood Borne Pathogens;
- Fire;
- Severe Weather/Tornado (*Ellensburg winds aside, thinking about how to prepare for earthquakes and tsunamis may be appropriate for the Northwest*);
- Flood;
- Broken Water Pipe inside the market;
- Power Failure;
- Gasoline or Chemical Spill;
- Natural Gas or Propane Leak;
- Civil Unrest;
- Robbery;
- Shooting
- Suspect Description Report; and
- Bomb Threat; and Contacts and Resources.