

Slurry Handling

In Ireland, over 40 million tonnes of slurry are stored, handled and spread as fertilizer each year. This presents two significant safety and health risks. Gas poisoning from slurry gases and drowning in slurry or water, have caused 20 (10%) farm deaths between 2006 and 2015.

Drowning is by far the most common stated cause of death involving slurry. Where possible, fence off all water and slurry hazards and take a cautious approach when working near slurry tanks, water tanks, ponds, rivers or lakes.



Slurry Handling <i>I will ensure that:</i>	Answer ✓ x or N/A
Open slurry/water tanks are fenced to a height of 1.8 meters and secured (including gates) to prevent access.	
Access (agitation) points to slatted tanks are kept secured.	
Slurry agitation/spreading is planned taking account of weather forecasts choosing a windy day if possible.	
Livestock are removed from sheds and pets are controlled before slurry agitation starts.	
All doors and sheeted gates are opened to maximize ventilation.	
During slurry agitation buildings and high risk areas are cordoned off to prevent access.	
Persons will stay away from agitation area for 30 mins after commencement.	
During slurry agitation and spreading agitation points are guarded and where possible safety grids are fitted.	
Manhole covers are replaced as soon as possible.	
Slurry gas warning signs are in place at agitation points.	
Entry into an underground slurry/effluent tank is never undertaken without full risk assessment and safety controls in place.	
Condition of slats is checked for damage regularly.	
Work is carried out upwind of agitation with no reliance placed on slurry gas monitors.	
List additional Slurry Handling controls identified	

Note: If a Safety Control Measure is missing indicate this on your Action List page 29.