

Medical Emergencies and Rural Agricultural Employers



Agricultural employers in rural areas often face additional challenges during emergencies. Issues such as distance to emergency medical services (EMS), fewer (or less maintained) roads, and little or no cellphone service can make emergencies more difficult, especially when accessing care for sick or injured workers.

This fact sheet provides employers with information to help create a strong emergency medical plan.

FIRST AID AND MEDICAL TREATMENT

Employers must provide first-aid supplies based on the types of injuries that could occur and immediately make the supplies available to workers.

Employers must promptly summon emergency medical services for injured or sick employees when necessary.

If necessary, create a meeting spot for EMS to retrieve sick or injured workers. Do not transport an injured worker unless qualified to do so or emergency services request you to do so. When in doubt, call 911 or your local EMS. If you immediately call emergency services, they can walk you through the appropriate steps and begin compiling resources to respond to the event.

The decision tree (on the next page) can help you determine whether to call local EMS or use your own qualified first-aid trained person.

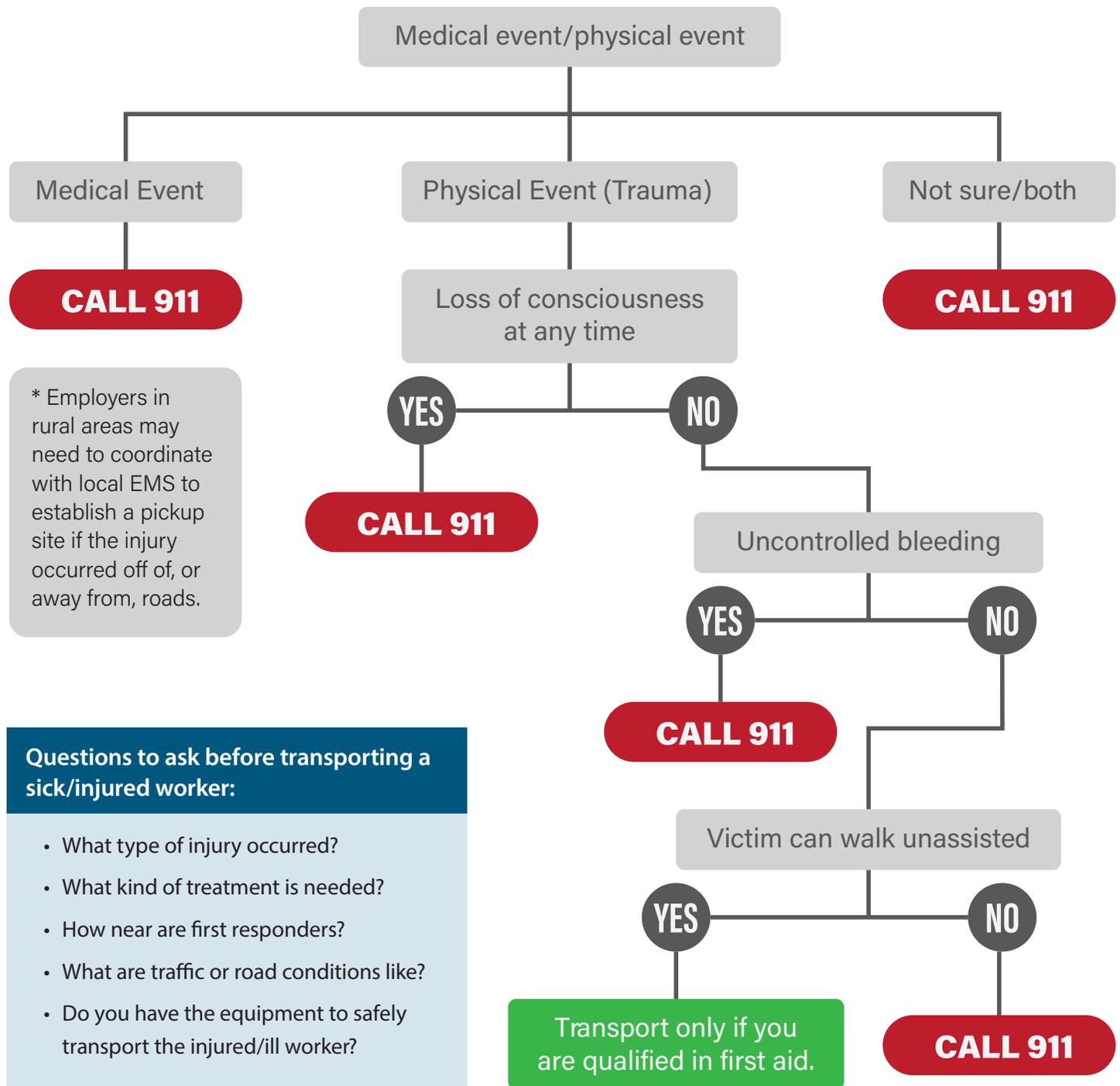
EMERGENCY MEDICAL PLAN

Create an emergency medical plan that evaluates the following:

- Identify how communication will occur (such as satellite phone or radio) if cell service is unavailable or unreliable.
- The type of injuries and illnesses that are likely to occur at each job site.
- The availability of local emergency medical services, their capacity to handle these types of emergencies, and their response time. Consider things such as their nearness to your location, traffic, equipment, and whether they are staffed 24/7 or by volunteers.
- Decide whether the local response system can handle your situation, or whether you need your own qualified first-aid people or medical response personnel.

Note: Train all employees about the medical plan and their responsibilities during an emergency

Agriculture Emergency Transport Decision Tree



The Technical Section of Oregon OSHA produced this fact sheet to highlight health and safety programs and rules. The information is intended to supplement the rules and provide best practices to employers.