

First Aid

As an employer, it is your responsibility to provide first aid supplies, services and trained first aiders at the workplace. This is required by Nova Scotia's First Aid Regulations.

Training

The table on the right can be used to determine how many first aiders you need and the training level they require. Most farm worksites fall into the Other Workplaces category (shown), and then the number of employees at that site as well as the distance from emergency services determine the first aiders needed.

Include all full-time, part-time and casual employees that are in the worksite at the same time to determine your employee numbers.

If an employee is required to take first aid training, the employer is responsible for paying for the course fee, and for paying wages to the employee while they attend the training. Farm owners and employees of registered farms are eligible for a discount on St. John Ambulance first aid training through Farm Safety Nova Scotia. The first aid certificates are generally valid for a three (3) year period.

Supplies and Services

First aid supplies and services must be available during all work hours at each worksite. Where reasonably practical, the location of first aid kits, supplies and the names of trained first aiders should be posted.

Use the table on the right to determine what size and how many first aid kits you require.

Depending on employee numbers, the larger first aid kits should be placed in a location on the farm that employees have access to, for example a lunchroom or barn office.

Nova Scotia has approved three types of first aid kits for workplaces:

Type 1 – Personal first aid kit. One size.

Type 2 – Basic first aid kit. Available in small, medium and large

Type 3 – Intermediate first aid kits. Available in small, medium and large

Note: 1 medium kit = 2 small kits, 1 large kit = 4 small or 2 medium kits.

Look for the CSA logo to be sure you are buying an approved first aid kit.

First aid supplies must be:

- Kept clean and dry
- Fully stocked with no expired items
- In line with the regulations
- Visible and in accessible locations

Farmers should have Type 1 Personal first aid kits in farm vehicles and tractors.

A list of the contents for the three sizes of first aid kits can be found in Appendix C page 24 of the [Workplace First Aid guide](#).

Travel time to emergency services is based on the time it takes under normal circumstances to transport an injured person by surface (land or water) from the worksite to a hospital or emergency care facility. An emergency care facility is defined as a health care facility that is equipped to provide immediate treatment of illnesses and injuries and has a medical practitioner on call.

Surface travel time	Number of employees per shift	Number of first aiders & certification level	Number and type of first aid kits
Close workplace 20 min from emergency medical care	1	—	1 type 1
	2-25	1 basic	1 type 2 (small)
	26-50	1 Intermediate	2 type 2 (small)
	51-99	2 Intermediate	3 type 2 (small)
	100-199	2 Intermediate	6 type 2 (small)
Distant workplace 20-40 min from emergency medical care	200 or more	3 Intermediate	6 type 2 (small)
	1	1 basic	1 type 1
	2-25	1 intermediate	1 type 2 (small)
	26-50	1 intermediate	2 type 2 (small)
	51-99	2 intermediate	3 type 2 (small)
Isolated workplace 40+ min from emergency medical care	100-199	1 intermediate	6 type 2 (small)
	200 or more	2 intermediate 1 advanced	6 type 2 (small)
	1	1 intermediate	1 type 1
	2-25	1 intermediate	1 type 3 (small)
	26-50	1 advanced	1 type 2 (small) 1 type 3 (small)
	51-99	2 advanced	2 type 2 (small) 1 type 3 (small)
	100-199	3 advanced	4 type 2 (small) 2 type 3 (small)
	200 or more	4 advanced	6 type 2 (small)

Table 1: Number of First Aiders and First Aid Kits Required in NS workplaces based on # of employees per shift and surface travel time to emergency services for non office workplaces.

Please note: The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations list 1 intermediate and 1 advanced first aiders for a distant workplace with 100-199 workers. That regulation takes precedence over this table.

Record Keeping

Detailed records of every workplace injury must be kept. The first aider must fill them out and they must include:

- Name of injured person
- Date and time of the injury
- Nature and location of injury on the person's body
- Time when first aid was administered
- First aid treatment that was provided
- Name of person who provided first aid and certificate level
- Name of person the injury was reported to

First Aid Rooms

If an employer has 200 or more employees regularly employed on any one shift at the workplace, a first aid room is required. The employer is responsible for controlling and supervising the first aid room.

Check the Workplace First Aid: A Guide for Employers and First Aiders which has the details of what is required in a first aid room.

Isolated Workplace First Aid Plan

An isolated workplace is one where the surface travel time under normal circumstances to transport an injured employee from the workplace to a hospital or emergency care facility takes more than 40 minutes.

To determine if you need an isolated workplace first aid plan, use the flow chart in Section 4.1 on page 17 of [Workplace First Aid: A Guide for Employers and First Aiders](#).

The Guide also contains helpful resources including:

- A First Aid Compliance Worksheet
- Employer First Aid Checklist

Disclaimer

This fact sheet is a general overview for information purposes only. Farmers must reference the legislation to ensure compliance.

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