



Cuyahoga County
Together We Thrive

Office of Emergency Management

At-A-Glance

Hazardous Materials Incidents

Hazardous materials in various forms can cause death, serious injury, long-lasting health effects and damage to buildings, homes and other property. Many products containing hazardous chemicals are used and stored in homes routinely. These products are also shipped daily on the nation's highways, railroads, waterways and pipelines.

Before a Hazardous Materials Incident...

Many communities have Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) whose responsibilities include collecting information about hazardous materials in the community and making this information available to the public upon request. The LEPCs also are tasked with developing an emergency plan to prepare for and respond to chemical emergencies in the community. Ways the public will be notified and actions the public must take in the event of a release are part of the plan.

Additionally, you can:

- Build an Emergency Supply Kit.
- Make a Family Emergency Plan.

During a Hazardous Materials Incident...

Listen to local radio or television stations for detailed information and instructions. Follow the instructions carefully. You should stay away from the area to minimize the risk of contamination. Remember that some toxic chemicals are odorless.

- If you are asked to evacuate, do so immediately. If you have time, help your neighbors who may require special assistance
- If you are caught outside, stay upstream, uphill, and upwind! In general, try to go at least one-half mile (usually 8-10 city blocks) from the danger area.
- If you are in a motor vehicle, stop and seek shelter. If you must remain in your car, keep car windows and vents closed and shut off air conditioner and heater.
- If you are requested to stay indoors:
 - Bring pets inside
 - Close and lock all exterior doors and windows.
 - Go into the pre-selected shelter room. This room should be above ground and have the fewest openings to the outside.

After a Hazardous Materials Incident...

- Act quickly if you have come in contact with or have been exposed to hazardous chemicals.
- Follow decontamination instructions from local authorities.
- Seek medical treatment for unusual symptoms as soon as possible.
- Follow the instructions of local authorities.
- Advise everyone who comes in to contact with you that you may have been exposed to a toxic substance.



Did You Know?

Many products containing hazardous chemicals are used and stored in homes routinely. These products are also shipped daily on the nation's highways, railroads, waterways and pipelines.

For additional information on Hazardous Materials Incidents, go to www.ready.gov or lepc.cuyahogacounty.us.

Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)



A Preparedness Resource from
Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management
P: 216-443-5700 | ema@cuyahogacounty.us
Ready.cuyahogacounty.us

 
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