"SHELTERING-IN-PLACE" VS. EVACUATION

If asked to stay indoors ("shelter in place")

- Seal house so contaminants cannot enter.
- Close and lock windows and doors.
- Seal gaps under doorways and windows with wet towels and duct tape.
- Seal gaps around window and air conditioning units, bathroom and kitchen exhaust fans, and stove and dryer vents with duct tape and plastic sheeting, wax paper or aluminum wrap.
- Close fireplace dampers.
- Close off nonessential rooms such as storage areas, laundry rooms and extra bedrooms.
- Turn off ventilation systems.
- Bring pets inside.
- Immediately after the "in-place sheltering" announcement is issued, fill up bathtubs or large containers for an additional water supply and turn off the intake valve into the house.
- If gas or vapors could have entered the building, take shallow breaths through a cloth or towel.
- Avoid eating or drinking any food or water that may be contaminated.
- Monitor the Emergency Alert System station for further incident-specific updates and remain in shelter until authorities indicate it is safe to come out.

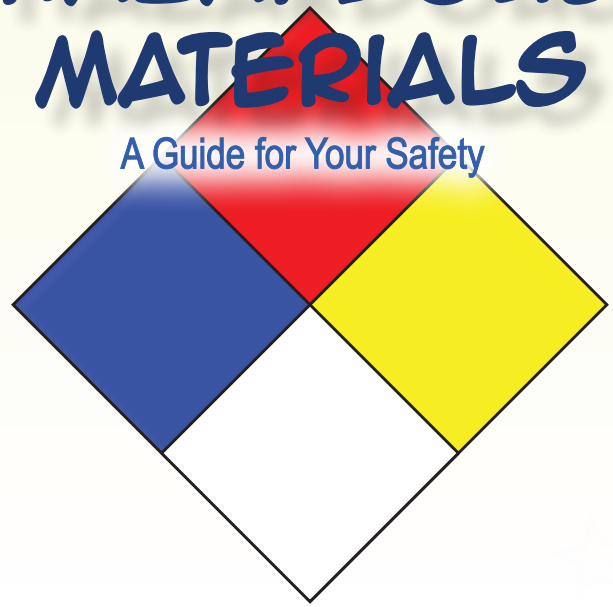
Be Ready Iowa

WWW.BEREADY.IOWA.GOV

Iowa Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management
7105 N.W. 70th Ave.
Camp Dodge, Bldg. W-4
Johnston, Iowa 50131-1824
(515) 725-3231
www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

A Guide for Your Safety



Iowa Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management

Nearly all households use products that contain hazardous materials, and hazardous materials are transported on our roadways, railways and waterways daily. Although the risk of a chemical accident is slight, knowing how to handle these products and how to react during an emergency can reduce the risk of injury.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS MATERIALS & MEDICATIONS

- Store all household products according to the instructions on the label.
- Keep chemicals and medications out of reach of children.
- **Never** mix household chemicals together. They may react, ignite or explode.
- Read instructions on how to dispose of chemicals properly.
  - If possible, recycle or reuse leftover hazardous materials.
  - Visit the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' website at **www.SafeSmartSolutions.org** for information on how to safely store and where to dispose of specific materials.
- Dispose of unused medication through the Iowa Pharmacy Association's TakeAway program. Go to **www.iarx.org/takeaway** to find a participating pharmacy near you.

PREPARE FOR A HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCY

- Have emergency supplies (including a first aid kit and fire extinguisher) in both your home and car.
- Put together a family communication plan.
- Put the number of the Iowa Poison Control center by the telephone, and save it in your cell phone: **1-800-222-1222 (Voice/TTY).** This is actually the telephone number for **every** poison center in the U.S.
- Learn to recognize symptoms of toxic poisoning:
  - Difficulty breathing
  - Irritation of the eyes, skin, throat or respiratory tract
  - Changes in skin color
  - Headache, blurred vision or dizziness
  - Clumsiness or lack of coordination
  - Cramps or diarrhea

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS ACCIDENTS

- If you see an accident, call **9-1-1** immediately.
- Move away from the scene and help keep others away.
- Do not walk into or touch any spilled substance. Try not to inhale gases, fumes or smoke. If possible, cover your mouth with a cloth and leave the area.
- Try to stay upstream, uphill and upwind of the accident.
- Don't try to care for victims until the substance has been identified and authorities indicate it is safe to go near victims. Then, move victims to fresh air and call for emergency medical care.

EVACUATION VS. "SHELTERING-IN-PLACE"

Authorities will decide if evacuation is necessary based mainly on the type and amount of chemical released and how long it is expected to affect an area. Other considerations are the length of time it should take to evacuate the area, weather conditions, and the time of day.

If you are asked to evacuate:

- Stay tuned to a radio or television for information an evacuation routes, temporary shelters, and procedures.
- Follow recommended routes; shortcuts may not be safe. Leave at once.
- If you have time, minimize contamination in the house by closing all windows and vents, and turning off attic fans.
- Take pre-assembled disaster supplies.
- Remember to help those who may require special assistance, such as infants, the elderly and people with special needs.

REPORTING SPILLS

Any person manufacturing, storing, handling, transporting, or disposing of hazardous waste shall notify the Iowa Department of Natural Resources at **(515) 281-8694** as soon as possible after a spill event. Visit **www.iowadnr.gov** for more information.