



## Hazardous Material Incidents...

Hazardous materials are chemicals or substances that can harm people, animals and the environment. The transportation, storage and use of hazardous materials is governed by regulations and safeguards. However accidents, spills and leaks can happen.

If there is a spill or release in your area emergency services will provide information on what to do to reduce your exposure and stay safe. They will use emergency alerts on radio, TV and/or social media or they may go door-to-door to notify residents.

You may be instructed to shelter-in-place or to evacuate.

## If you are told to Shelter-In-Place...

If emergency services instruct you to shelter-in-place during a chemical spill then it is safer to stay indoors rather than going outside where you may be exposed to harmful chemicals. There are steps you can take to minimize exposure.

- ⇒ close and lock all exterior doors and windows;
- ⇒ turn off heating and air-conditioning systems that circulate air through your home and turn off all fans (e.g. kitchen range hood and bathroom ventilation fan);
- ⇒ retrieve your emergency kit in case you need to evacuate;
- ⇒ move to an above-ground interior room, without windows, to take shelter;
- ⇒ use duct tape to seal air vents and cracks around the door;
- ⇒ Monitor local radio or television for more information; or social media feeds from emergency services or the City for information updates. You will be notified when it is safe to go outside, or you may be instructed to evacuate.

**Stay Above Ground!** *Some chemicals are heavier than air and can seep into basements and accumulate.*

## If you are told to evacuate your home...

If emergency personnel advise you to evacuate, take your emergency kit and leave the area immediately. Do not return home until authorities inform you that it is safe. Authorities will not ask you to leave your home unless you are in danger.

If you are advised to evacuate:

- ⇒ follow the instructions from emergency services personnel on when to leave, where to go and what routes to follow;
- ⇒ take your emergency kit, list of contacts, phone and phone charger with you;
- ⇒ when you leave, lock your house and leave a note that indicates where you are going and a phone number where you can be reached;
- ⇒ contact your out-of-area contact - let them know where you are going, your planned route and when you expect to arrive;
- ⇒ if you are directed to a reception or evacuation centre, follow the designated route;
- ⇒ upon arriving at a reception centre, register with the centre staff and call your out-of-area contact to give them an update.

