

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL RESPONSE GUIDANCE



The key to a hazardous material release is a quick response and, in some cases, you will be taking the initial steps for your own protection as emergency responders react to the incident. Please understand local authorities may not immediately be able to provide detailed information on what is happening and the long-term actions that should take as the initial response is primarily directed towards the immediate safety measures required based on the information currently available. Additional instructions should be provided as the situation is assessed and further guidance provided as other safety actions may be required.

Initial response is therefore to move safely and quickly away and out of the area, staying upwind and moving away from the direction the wind is blowing as this will contain potential hazardous material in what is known as a plume. Avoid any visible clouds of vapor, smoke, or other substances in the air and any liquid or other spilled material on the ground or in the vicinity.

It is requested RAGBRAI participants move to the closest and safest Emergency Shelter or if unable to, move to a location of safety as can be best determined at the time or as directed by on scene emergency responders. Further directions will be provided as soon as possible by Lansing RAGBRAI staff or emergency personnel.

The following boxes provides some basic information on actions to be taken.

<p>If you are caught at the scene of an accident:</p>	<p>Some incidents may take place where you are at, and the following information provides some actions you can follow.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you see an accident, call 911 to report the nature and location of the accident as soon as possible. • Move away from the accident scene and help keep others away. • Do not walk into or touch any of the spilled substance. • Try not to inhale gases, fumes, and smoke. • If possible, cover mouth with a cloth while leaving the area. • Stay away from accident victims until the hazardous material has been identified. • Try to stay upstream, uphill, and upwind of the accident.
<p>Assisting accident victims:</p>	<p>Don't try to care for victims of a hazardous materials accident until the substance has been identified and authorities indicate it is safe to go near victims. Then you can move victims to fresh air. Ensure medical care has been contacted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove contaminated clothing and shoes and place them in a plastic bag. • Cleanse victims that have come in contact with chemicals by immediately pouring cold water over the skin or eyes for at least 15 minutes, unless authorities instruct you not to use water on the chemical involved.
<p>If you are asked to stay indoors: (Shelter-in-Place)</p>	<p>Whether you are at home, work or anywhere else you frequent regularly, there may be situations when it's best to stay where you are and avoid any uncertainty outside. Shelter-in-Place is considered a temporary protective measure to create a barrier between you and potentially contaminated air outside. Here are some indicators and steps to take if the situation arises.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use common sense and available information to assess the situation and determine if there is immediate danger. • If you see large amounts of debris in the air, or if local authorities say the air is badly contaminated you may want to take this kind of action.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seal the building 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 and laundry rooms. • Turn off all ventilation systems. • Bring pets inside. • Immediately after the Shelter-in-Place announcement is issued, fill up bathtubs or large containers for an additional water supply and turn off the intake valve to the building. • If gas or vapors could have entered the building, take shallow breaths through a cloth or a towel. • Avoid eating or drinking any food or water that may be contaminated. • Listen to local radio or television stations for further updates and remain in shelter until authorities indicate it is safe to come out.
<p>If you are asked to evacuate:</p>	<p>Authorities will decide if evacuation is necessary based primarily on the type and amount of chemical released and how long it is expected to affect an area. Other considerations are length of time it should take to evacuate the area, weather conditions, and time of day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay tuned to a radio or television for information on evacuation routes, temporary shelters, and procedures. • Follow the routes recommended by the authorities; shortcuts may not be safe and leave at once. • If you have time, minimize contamination in the building by closing all windows, shutting all vents, and turning off fans. • Take pre-assembled disaster supplies. • Remember to help your neighbors who may require special assistance: infants, elderly people, and people with special needs or if unable to assist, contact local authorities to provide assistance.
<p>After the incident:</p>	<p>Once the incident is considered over and it's safe to return, the following actions are recommended.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return only when authorities say it is safe. • Follow local instructions concerning the safety of food and water. • Clean up and dispose of residue carefully. • Act quickly if you have come in to 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. • Place exposed clothing and shoes in tightly sealed containers. • Advise everyone who comes in to contact with you that you may have been exposed to a toxic substance. • Open windows and vents and turn on fans to provide ventilation. • Find out from local authorities how to clean up your land and property. • Report any lingering vapors or other hazards to your local emergency services.