



CHEMICAL EMERGENCIES

Chemicals are integral to daily life, enhancing quality of life in homes and communities. However, exposure to hazardous chemicals – whether through accidental releases or large-scale emergencies – can pose significant risks.



Home Chemical Safety:

- **No Mixing:** Never combine household chemicals – dangerous gases can result (e.g., ammonia & bleach).
- **Read Labels:** Follow all product directions carefully.
- **Secure Storage:** Store chemicals in labeled, sealed containers, out of reach of children and away from food.
- **Fire Safety:** Avoid using chemicals near open flames or ignition sources.
- **Spill Control:** Clean spills immediately with rags; air dry rags outdoors, then dispose of wrapped in newspaper.

Major Chemical Emergencies:

- **Potential Sources:** Incidents can occur at industrial facilities, during transport (highway/rail), or as deliberate attacks.
- **Hazards:** May involve fire, explosion, or invisible/undetectable chemical releases.
- **Notification:** Authorities will issue notifications during a confirmed chemical emergency.

Emergency Response:

- **Follow Instructions:** Listen for and strictly adhere to official guidance.
- **Limit Communication:** Avoid unnecessary phone use.
- **Shelter-in-Place (If NOT Evacuating):**
 - Close/seal windows, doors, vents, and fireplace dampers.
 - Turn off HVAC systems.
 - Move to an interior room with few windows. *Avoid basements.*
 - Maintain emergency kit and radio for updates.
- **Evacuation (If Ordered):**
 - Take essential items & emergency kit.
 - Secure building (vents, appliances, doors/windows).
 - Close vehicle windows/vents; turn off HVAC.

Exposure & Medical Attention:

- **Chemical Burns:**
 - Remove contaminated clothing/jewelry.
 - Flush with cold water (eyes – remove contacts first).
 - Cover loosely with sterile dressing.
 - *Seek immediate medical attention.*
- **Exposure Symptoms:** Be alert for: labored breathing, headaches, blurred vision, skin/eye/throat irritation, dizziness, stomach issues, or altered behavior. *Report symptoms immediately.*

- **Personnel Reporting (Military/Government Personnel):** Once safe, report to your command and <https://adpaas.army.mil/>.

Where to Find Additional Information

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): <https://www.ready.gov/hazmat>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2005-149/default.html>
- American Red Cross: <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/chemical-emergency.html>
- Ready Army: <https://www.army.mil/ready>

It's up to you. Prepare strong. Get an emergency supply kit with enough supplies for at least three days, make an emergency plan with your family and be informed about what might happen. These fact sheets are intended to supplement predetermined plans and policies. Follow state, local, installation and command guidance related to threats and hazards.



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