



# HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENTS



# BEFORE A HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENT

The following are things you can do to protect yourself, your family and your property from the effects of a hazardous materials incident:

- Build an Emergency Supply Kit with the addition of plastic sheeting and duct tape
- Make a Family Emergency Plan
- Know how to operate your home's ventilation system
- Identify an above-ground shelter room with as few openings as possible.





# DURING A HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENT

## **Asked to evacuate**

- Do so immediately.
- Stay tuned to a radio or television for information on evacuation routes, temporary shelters, and procedures.
- If you have time, minimize contamination in the house by closing all windows, shutting all vents, and turning off attic fans.
- Take pre-assembled disaster supplies.
- Remember to help your neighbors who may require special assistance--infants, elderly people and people with access and functional needs.

## **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.
- Do not walk into or touch any spilled liquids, airborne mists, or condensed solid chemical deposits. Try not to inhale gases, fumes and smoke. If possible, cover mouth with a cloth or mask while leaving the area.
- Stay away from accident victims until the hazardous material has been identified.

## **In a motor vehicle**

- Stop and seek shelter in a permanent building.
- If you must remain in your car, keep car windows and vents closed and shut off the air conditioner and heater.

## **Requested to stay indoors**

- Bring pets inside.
- Close and lock all exterior doors and windows. Close vents, fireplace dampers, and as many interior doors as possible.
- Turn off air conditioners and ventilation systems, or set ventilation systems to 100 percent re-circulation so that no outside air is drawn into 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.
- Go into your pre-selected shelter room.
- Seal gaps under and around the following areas with wet towels, plastic sheeting, duct tape, wax paper or aluminum foil:
  - Doorways and windows
  - Air conditioning units
  - Bathroom and kitchen exhaust fans
  - Stove and dryer vents with duct tape and plastic sheeting

# AFTER A HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENT



- Listen to local radio or television stations for the latest emergency information.
- Go to a designated public shelter if you have been told to evacuate or you feel it is unsafe to remain in your home.
- 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.
- Return home only when authorities say it is safe. 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 the Katy Office of Emergency Management.

