

Chemical Emergency

Evacuation



Some kinds of chemical incidents, releases or attacks, such as a train derailment, industrial accident or a terrorist incident, may make staying on site dangerous. In such cases, it may be safer to evacuate or leave the immediate area and/ or go to an emergency shelter after leaving the immediate area. Do not leave pets behind unless they are not easily transported.

How To Know If Evacuation is Needed



As soon as it is apparent something unusual has occurred; monitor local AM radio stations, TV and/or credible online news sources for more information. If it is a true local emergency, an emergency broadcast with detailed information will be released by local authorities (also known as the Emergency Broadcast System EBS).

What To Do

Act quickly and follow the instructions of local officials. Every situation can be different, so listen carefully for special instructions to follow for a particular event.

The affected community may be directed to evacuate homes or offices and go to an emergency shelter. If so, directions will be provided on how to get to the shelter. Children in school may be sheltered at the school. No one should try to get to the school if the children are being sheltered there. Transporting them from the school can increase the risk of exposure!

The emergency shelter should have most supplies that individuals need. If time allows, be sure to bring medications, home emergency supply kit, special needs items, pets, etc...

Later, call a friend or relative in another county or state to notify them of evacuation plans so that they can help or coordinate communications with other family members or friends. Be patient, telephone lines may be jammed; texting may be a better option. Check on neighbors, they might not be aware of the emergency or may not have transportation.

Most of the time people will not be in the shelter for more than a few hours, and will be notified when it is safe to leave the shelter and of anything that may need to be done to make sure it is safe to re-enter the home, school or workplace.



For more sources of information on this topic visit:

ST. CLAIR COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT www.scchealth.co

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES www.michigan.gov/mdhhs

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY www.fema.gov and www.ready.gov