

Hazardous Chemical Spill / Release Information

As Taylor County prepares for an upcoming hazardous chemical table-top exercise with our community partners, I wanted to ensure that our businesses are better prepared and know what to do during a chemical spill or release that could occur.

Plan to Evacuate or Shelter-In-Place

During a chemical spill, release, or hazmat incident, you may be told to evacuate your home or shelter-in-place. Notification to evacuate or shelter-in-place may come via HyperReach (Taylor County Emergency Notification Platform), all hazard weather radio, TV, or door-to-door by law enforcement or a fire department member. If you are told to evacuate, remain calm and follow all instructions.

Taylor County Emergency Management, the American Red Cross, Taylor County Human Services and other organizations and volunteers may establish and operate a community-based shelter for county residents at an area public school, recreation center, or another appropriate facility. Persons needing shelter may be asked to bring blankets, pillows, a change of clothing, bathing and sanitary supplies, pre-filled prescriptions, and other medical needs such as eye care products, dentures, and any special dietary supplies you may need.

If you are advised to Shelter-In-Place, follow these easy Shelter-In-Place instructions so you know what to do and how you can better prepare.

- Close the business.
- If there are customers, clients, or visitors in the building, provide for their safety by asking them to stay – not leave. When authorities provide directions to shelter-in-place, they want everyone to take those steps immediately. Do not drive or walk outdoors.
- Unless there is an immediate threat, ask employees, customers, clients, and visitors to call their emergency contact to let them know where they are and that they are safe.
- Turn on call-forwarding or alternative telephone answering systems or services. If the business has voice mail or an automated attendant, change the recording to indicate that the business is closed, and that staff and visitors are remaining in the building until authorities advise it is safe to leave.
- Quickly lock exterior doors and close windows, air vents, and fireplace dampers. Have employees familiar with your buildings' mechanical systems turn off all fans, heating and air conditioning systems, and clothes dryers. Some systems automatically provide

for exchange of inside air with outside air. These systems particularly need to be turned off, sealed, or disabled.

- If you are told there is a danger of explosion, close the window shades, blinds, or curtains.
- Gather essential disaster supplies, such as nonperishable food, bottled water, battery-powered radios, first aid supplies, flashlights, batteries, duct tape, plastic sheeting, and plastic garbage bags. (It is best to have these items in your business emergency kit so they are easily accessible).
- It is ideal to have a hard-wired telephone in the room you have designated.
- Seal all windows, doors, and vents with plastic sheeting and duct tape or anything else you have on hand.
- Consider precutting plastic sheeting (heavier than food wrap) to seal windows, doors, and air vents. Each piece should be several inches larger than the space you want to cover so that it lies flat against the wall. Label each piece with the location of where it fits.
- Write down the names of everyone in the room and call your business' designated emergency contact to report who is in the room with you, and their affiliation with your business (employee, visitor, client, customer).
- Listen to the radio, watch a local television station, or use the Internet for further instructions until you are told all is safe or to evacuate. Local officials may call for evacuation in specific areas at greatest risk in your community.

If you or your business has not yet signed up for the HyperReach Emergency Notification System, please visit www.co.taylor.wi.us – HyperReach Sign Up under the Frequently Visited section on the right of the page. Please also follow the Taylor County Emergency Management Facebook page.

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