

CHILDREN IN SCHOOL

In the event of a community or national emergency, an evacuation, or a shelter-in-place order, parents should check the local media and local school system cable stations, hot lines, and web-sites for school opening/closing announcements. Generally, unless evacuation of a particular school is ordered, students will be kept at school until school officials can safely transport them home. As the best place

for children during a crisis may well be in school, parents are discouraged from going to school to pick up their children. Parents who go to school should be prepared to present the identification required by school officials, usually a photo ID. If a school is ordered to provide shelter in place to protect the safety of the children, no one will be allowed in or out of the school building until the danger is passed. In that event, parents, for their own safety, should also remain indoors. Relying on the schools to transport students home on normal bus routes will help avoid gridlock in and around schools and help keep roads clear for essential emergency vehicles. If buses are severely delayed, schools may ask parents to help by picking up their children. Parents should check the local media and school news outlets regularly for announcements.. For more information, visit the school web site www.fcps.edu.



WORKPLACE

An emergency could arise while you are at work. Check with your employer for a workplace emergency plan. Keep a smaller Disaster Supply Kit at work and in your car.



LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

In 1986 Congress enacted the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act (also known as the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act or SARA). The law provides for emergency response planning to cope with the release of toxic chemicals into the air, land, and water. To carry out provisions of the law, the Fairfax Joint Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) was organized. Four jurisdictions participate – the City of Fairfax, the County of Fairfax, the Town of Herndon, and the Town of Vienna. An important goal of the committee is to increase public knowledge and access to information about the presence of hazardous materials in the community and how to respond to an emergency.

**For more information
contact the FJLEPC at:**

**4100 Chain Bridge Road
Fairfax, VA 22030
703-246-4386
TTY: Virginia Relay 711**



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Fairfax Joint

Local Emergency Planning Committee



703-246-4386

TTY 711

HOW TO RESPOND TO CHEMICAL EMERGENCIES



Have a Plan and Practice it!!

www.lepcfairfax.org

EMERGENCY WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



What happens if there is an accidental spill or leak of toxic chemicals on a transportation route or from a fixed facility? This brochure provides some information that will be helpful to anyone who may be affected by such an event. Notification procedures, what to expect, and special procedures in the event of an evacuation order are important to an appropriate response in an emergency. **Please keep this brochure handy.**

NOTIFICATION

You will be provided information to help safeguard health and property. This information may require evacuation from your home or what is called sheltering in-place.

An evacuation may be ordered if the community is threatened and there is time to evacuate safely. Depending on the scope of the incident, public announcements will also be made on cable channel 16, on radio and TV and official vehicles (Police, Fire & Rescue) will travel in the affected area alerting residents. In the event of a local emergency, you can anticipate a knock on the door **or** an announcement by loud speaker in your streets. You will be given instructions by a uniformed member of public safety. Upon notification of an impending or immediate emergency:

- ⇒ **Stay calm**
- ⇒ **Watch or listen to your local television or radio station**
- ⇒ **Follow directions**

SHELTER IN PLACE

If local officials advise you to “shelter in place,” they mean for you to remain indoors and protect yourself there. Take your children and pets indoors immediately. Get your Disaster Supply Kit, and make sure the radio is working. Go to an interior room without windows that is above ground level. In the case of a chemical threat, an above-ground location is preferable because some chemicals are heavier than air, and can seep into basements even if the windows are closed. While gathering your family, you should:



⇒ **Close all windows, exterior doors and fireplace dampers.**



⇒ **Turn off all fans, heating, and air conditioning systems.**



⇒ **Wet some towels and jam them in the cracks under the doors.**



⇒ **Tape around the doors, windows, exhaust fans and vents.**

⇒ **Use plastic sheeting to cover windows, outlets, and heat registers.**

⇒ **Close the window shades, blinds or curtains if you are told there is danger of explosion.**

EVACUATION

Local officials may call for evacuation in areas at greatest risk in your community. **If you are told to evacuate, it is important to stay calm, listen carefully, and follow all instructions.** If you are sure you have time, call your family contact to tell them where you are going and when you expect to arrive. If time permits, shut off water and electricity. **Leave natural gas ON unless local officials advise you otherwise.** Only a professional can restore gas service once it is turned off, and this could take weeks in a disaster situation. If you must choose quickly what to take with you, take these items which should already be in your Disaster Supply Kit:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Clothing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-perishable food | <input type="checkbox"/> Cash/Traveler's Check |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit | <input type="checkbox"/> Bedding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medications | <input type="checkbox"/> Tools |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Battery-powered radio | <input type="checkbox"/> Important documents/ phone #s |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight | <input type="checkbox"/> Special needs items (ex. diapers) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extra Batteries | <input type="checkbox"/> Toiletry items |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Duct tape | |

PETS

With the exception of service animals, **most shelters do not accept pets.** For more information on what to do with your pet during emergencies, see the “*NV Home Guide to Emergency Preparedness*” available free at local libraries or visit the ASPCA web site: www.asPCA.org.

