

Hazardous Chemicals in Our Community

Hazardous chemicals are found in many places throughout our community. Many potentially dangerous chemicals are used in industry, farming, and even in schools and hospitals. What if an accidental chemical release occurred near your adult foster care home?

It is important that you know what to do in a chemical emergency. Preparing is the best protection for you and your residents.



How Will I Know There Is a Chemical Emergency?

Local public warning sirens may sound.

Police or fire personnel may go door to door notifying residents.

NOAA weather radios will alarm.

Local TV or radio news will tell you -

- What is happening
- Where it is happening
- Whether it involves you
- What you need to do

To learn more visit our website at
www.accesskent.com/LEPC

Write:
Kent County
Local Emergency Planning Committee
Kent County Sheriff Department
Office of Emergency
Management
701 Ball Avenue NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Or call:
(616) 632-6256

Chemical Emergency Guidelines For Adult Foster Care Homes



Pre-planning Checklist

- Find out what kinds of emergencies are most likely to happen in your area. A list of farms and businesses using hazardous chemicals in your neighborhood is available from the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).
- Prepare an emergency supply kit, which includes:
 - An updated list of people in your care and emergency phone numbers for each, including family, physicians and pharmacies
 - Battery-powered radio
 - Flashlight
 - Extra batteries
 - Water
 - Towels to tuck under doors
 - Duct tape and heavy plastic sheeting for sealing doors and windows
 - First aid kit
 - Prescribed medicines, and a list of all medications, for each person in your care
- Pre-arrange transportation necessary to evacuate everyone in your care; consider mobility needs.
- Select accessible shelter locations at least 2 miles away to the north, south, east and west. The wind may determine the safest shelter area.
- Make sure everyone in your care knows and understands your emergency plan through regular drills.
- Inform residents' family members, guardians, and your neighborhood emergency service providers about your emergency plan.

Shelter-In-Place Checklist

If the police or fire department tell you to take shelter in your adult foster care home, use this checklist to help you prepare.



- Keep everyone inside.
- Close the windows and doors.
- Turn off the following:
 - air conditioners
 - heating system blowers
- Extinguish any open flames, including pilot lights.
- Close fireplace dampers if you do not have a fire in your fireplace.
- Seal all cracks and openings with duct tape to provide added protection.
- Stay where you are and listen to a local radio or TV station for further instructions.

If you think you are being exposed to fumes, put a wet cloth over your nose and mouth. Call 9-1-1 for help.

Photo courtesy of Four Maples Retirement Home, Traverse City, MI

Evacuation Checklist

If the police or fire department tell you to leave the area, use this checklist to help you and your residents evacuate safely.

- **Leave immediately.** Do not stop to pack. Only take things you really need, like prescribed medicines.
- Turn off appliances.
- Put pets in a secure place with food and water.
- Close and lock your doors and windows.
- Unless a special shelter site has been announced on the TV or radio, go to a shelter site you have pre-planned for your residents.
- Stay at this location and listen to a local TV or radio station for further information.



Do not call 9-1-1 for information during a chemical emergency. Tune in to local TV and radio stations for updates. Only call 9-1-1 if you have a medical emergency or a threat to property, such as a fire.