

If you are told to Evacuate in a hazardous material emergency:

- Gather a change of clothing, baby/dietary needs/medicines.
- Keep car vents and windows closed when traveling. **DONOT** use the car air conditioner or heater.
- **DONOT** go to school to pick up children. Children will be cared for by school personnel.
- Evacuate quickly and stay calm.

Traveling In A Vehicle

- Listen to your local radio station for reports about your route and location of shelter.
- Turn off air conditioner, vent and heater.
- Keep car windows and air vents closed.



Your Children Are in School

Do not go to your children's school to pick them up. School officials will take special care of your children. Do not try to call them. You will be told by radio or TV where to pick up your child; they may be relocated.



LEPC Participants:



El Paso Fire Department



Shelter-In-Place



Local Emergency Planning Committee

Your Local Emergency Planning Committee's (LEPC) mission is to develop an effective plan of action that will be utilized if a hazardous material is released into our community. For further information, call (915) 771-1010.

Shelter-In-Place



Local Emergency Planning Committee

Presented by:
El Paso County
LEPC

For information, call
(915) 771-1010.

The El Paso area has tremendous potential for a major hazardous materials accident. Large quantities of hazardous materials are transported through our community daily. Some of these chemicals present the potential for loss of life numbering in the thousands. They also present the potential for significant environmental exposure.



Hydrogen fluoride, bromine, nitrogen tetroxide, sulfuric acid, LPG and chlorine are examples of extremely hazardous substances that may be found in El Paso on any given day in rail car or tank truck quantities. Major interstate, transcontinental and international traffic routes pass through densely populated areas. The majority of our population borders these arterials as they pass through the city. For example, a major rail line passes directly underneath a 21-story office building in downtown El Paso.

The Rio Grande is the only barrier between El Paso and our sister city, Cd. Juarez, Mexico. There is no distance separating the two cities. Industry on both sides of the border result in the substantial use, transport and storage of hazardous chemicals. NAFTA will undoubtedly increase these concerns.

Local industry includes a petroleum refinery, two large copper processing facilities, garment finishing operations, electronics manufacturing and a hydrofluoric acid manufacturing facility in Juarez. Our experience to date has been negligible compared to the potential risk the El Paso/Juarez community faces daily. The odds are against us, and it is only a matter of time until disaster strikes. The question is - will we be ready?

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

- Primary function of the LEPC is to develop an effective plan of action that will be utilized, if a hazardous material is released in the community.
- Plan of action for the LEPC includes:

- ▶ Emergency Alert System
- ▶ Public Education
- ▶ Hazard/Risk Assessment
- ▶ Mutual Aid Agreements
- ▶ Contingency Planning



- El Paso County is one of the 254 counties in the state of Texas that has a LEPC designation.
- All members of the El Paso County LEPC are volunteers.

Shelter-In-Place Guidelines

The term Shelter-In-Place means to seek immediate shelter and remain there during an emergency rather than evacuate the area. There are occasions when the option to evacuate the area is not considered (e.g., a time constraint, or when evacuation would subject you to greater risk). Unless otherwise instructed to evacuate, sheltering in a pre-determined safe location in your home or place of work is the preferred method of safely waiting out a hazardous materials release. Shelter-In-Place may last no more than one-to-two hours and preparations, made in advance, can ensure that the event is as comfortable as possible.

The decision to shelter-in-place or evacuate is usually made by local emergency management personnel or a representative of the chemical facility experiencing the release. It is a good idea for you, if you live near a chemical facility, to make contact with the facility to find out what chemicals they may have on hand and what plans are in place to handle a chemical spill. In many cases, facilities have

procedures in place to notify you in the event of a chemical release.

If you are asked to shelter in place, here is a list of what to do:

- 1 First, remain calm.
- 2 If you are outdoors, go inside immediately (an interior room without windows is preferable). **DO NOT** call 911 unless you are reporting an immediate life-threatening situation. Do not attempt to get your children from their school or daycare. Staff members should be trained to protect your children and may institute shelter-in-place procedures where they are located.
- 3 Next, close all windows and doors. Place pre-cut plastic sheeting over windows, and tape in place.
- 4 Close all outside air vents. Turn off cooling, heating or ventilating systems. Cover cracks under doors with damp towels. If you have a fireplace, put out the fire and close the damper. Tape cracks and other openings such as electrical outlets and cable television outlets for extra protection. Keep pets indoors.
- 5 Lastly, listen carefully to an AM/FM radio, television, or for instructions from emergency officials.

Assemble your own Shelter-In-Place kit to aid you when the need arises. A simple kit can be assembled relatively inexpensively with the following items:

- ✓ A roll of plastic sheeting, pre-cut to fit any windows in the room.
- ✓ A roll of duct tape.
- ✓ Bath towels to place under any openings in doorways (damp towels first).
- ✓ A battery-operated radio, with extra batteries, tuned to the local Emergency Alert Station (EAS).
- ✓ Bottled water and some sort of snack food.