

CHEMICALS

are found everywhere.

Chemicals purify drinking water, increase crop production, and simplify household chores. Many products containing hazardous chemicals are used and stored in homes routinely. These products are shipped daily on the nation's highways, railroads, waterways, and pipelines.

Chemicals can be hazardous to humans or the environment if used or released improperly. Although extremely rare, there always remains a slim chance that a chemical emergency will occur despite the extraordinary precautions that have been taken. These substances are most often released as a result of transportation accidents or because of chemical accidents in plants.

Types of Hazardous Materials

Hazardous materials come in the form of explosives, flammable and combustible substances, poisons, and radioactive materials.

Information Zone

Follow these agencies on social media:

- Maricopa County Department of Emergency Management
- Maricopa County Department of Environmental Services
- Arizona Emergency Information Network
- Arizona Department of Environmental Quality



Maricopa County
Emergency Management

5630 E. McDowell Road
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ready.maricopa.gov

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ARE YOU READY? HAZARDOUS MATERIALS



Preparedness Starts with You!



Maricopa County
Emergency Management

Before

Know Your Risk & Be Informed

- Hazardous materials are routinely shipped via major highways and railways.
- Visit azdeq.gov/records-center to find out about nearby companies that have filed a Tier II report for hazardous materials.
- Attend Maricopa County's Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meetings to find out about chemical hazards in your community.

Prepare Yourself & Your Family

- Develop and practice a **Disaster Plan** with your family to prepare for what to do, where to go, and how to communicate during any disaster.
- Prepare to evacuate by creating a **Go Bag** for each individual and pet. Consider including one in your vehicle and one at work.
- Prepare to stay in your home for up to 3 days (without electricity or running water) by creating an **Emergency Kit**.
- Visit ready.maricopa.gov and ein.az.gov to learn more about how to prepare for disasters.

Prepare Your Home

- Be prepared to shelter in place. Identify an internal room, preferably without windows. Keep a roll of duct tape, scissors, and plastic in that room. To save critical time, pre-measure and cut the plastic sheeting for each window, door, and vent opening.

Be Informed. Be Ready. Take Action.

Before & During Any Disaster or Large-Scale Emergency

- Monitor your television, portable radio, or cell phone for information and instructions.
- If you have been told to EVACUATE or SHELTER in your home, DO SO IMMEDIATELY. Secure your home. Remember your pets. Check on neighbors who may need special assistance. Follow all evacuation or shelter orders given by local authorities.
- Return home only when authorities indicate that it's safe.

During

Take Action Indoors

- Turn off air-conditioning/heating system.
- Seal your home. Close windows, doors, and vents. Seal any gaps.
- Bring pets indoors.

Take Action Outdoors

- Stay upstream, uphill, and upwind at least one-half mile away from the danger area.
- Protect your face and any exposed skin. Cover your nose and mouth.

Take Action in a Vehicle

- Turn off air-conditioning/heating system.
- Seal your car. Close windows, doors, and vents. Seal any gaps.

After

Stay Safe, Healthy & Alert

- Open windows and vents and turn on fans for ventilation.
- Act quickly if you have come in to contact with or have been exposed to hazardous chemicals. Do not make contact with other people or materials.
- Follow decontamination instructions from local authorities. Place exposed clothing and shoes in tightly sealed containers. Call local authorities to find out about proper disposal.
- Seek medical treatment for unusual symptoms as soon as possible. Advise everyone who comes into contact with you that you may have been exposed to a toxic substance.
- Report any lingering vapors or other hazards to your local emergency services office.
- Find out from local authorities how to clean up your land and property.

REPORT

Call 911 if the spill or release is an immediate threat to anyone's life, health, or safety. Call the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality in all other cases:

- Spill Reporting 602-771-2330
- Environmental Emergency 602-390-7894