

Know What To Do:



Community Hazardous Material Incidents

When a train derails, a truck wrecks or a plant has an emergency where chemicals are either released or have the potential to be released, community and campus leaders will make a decision whether to instruct the campus to shelter-in-place or evacuate. Shelter-in-place means selecting a small, interior room with no windows, and taking refuge, it does not mean sealing off your entire home or office building. Evacuation means to leave the area of concern. MavAlert and the media will broadcast emergency instructions as soon as possible.

Why You Might Need to Shelter-in-Place

Chemical, biological, or radiological contaminants may be released accidentally or intentionally into the environment within a building or on campus.

- ✓ If there are students, or visitors in the building, provide for their safety by asking them to stay – not leave.
- ✓ Close and lock all windows, exterior doors, and any other openings to the outside.
- ✓ Select interior room(s) above the ground floor, with the fewest windows or vents. The room should have adequate space for everyone to sit down. Avoid overcrowding by selecting several rooms if necessary.
- ✓ Large storage closets, utility rooms, pantries, copy and conference rooms without exterior windows will work well.
- ✓ Avoid selecting a room with mechanical equipment like ventilation blowers or pipes because this equipment may not be sealed from the outdoors.
- ✓ The room should already be identified in your building's Emergency Action Plan.
- ✓ It is ideal to have a hard-wired telephone in the room(s) you select.
- ✓ Call emergency contacts and have the phone available if you need to report a life-threatening condition. Cellular telephone equipment may be overwhelmed or damaged during an emergency.
- ✓ Keep listening to the radio, television or emergency notification systems until you are told all is safe or you are told to evacuate.

Evacuation

In the event that sheltering-in-place is not an option, campus and community leaders may issue an order to evacuate the area. Evacuation orders may be communicated via MavAlert, radio, television, weather radio, and other alert systems as appropriate. If you live in the opposite direction of the evacuation, follow the instructions provided. If you do not follow their directions, you may put yourself at risk of becoming exposed to the hazard(s).