



# PREPARE FOR AN EMERGENCY

## Chemical Spill or Release

A **chemical spill or release** can be anything from a hazardous material spill on the highway, to a gas leak in your home or spilling household cleaner. It is important that you know how to protect yourself and others during a chemical release incident.

### HOW TO PREPARE FOR AND PREVENT A CHEMICAL SPILL

- Avoid mixing chemicals, even common household products. Some combination can create toxic gases.
- Read and follow the direction on chemical products. Some products should not be used in confined spaces to avoid inhaling harmful vapors. Gloves and eye protection may be required for some chemicals to prevent the chemical from touching your body.
- Store all chemicals safely. But only as much of a chemical as you think you will use. Products should be stored in their original containers with proper directions for use so they can be easily identified.
- Beware of fire. Never smoke while using household chemicals. Do not use household chemicals near an open flame or heated appliance as vapor particles could catch fire or explode.
- Dispose of all unused chemicals properly. Unsafe disposal of chemical products can result in harm to yourself or others.

### STAYING SAFE DURING A CHEMICAL SPILL OR RELEASE

#### **Indoor:**

- Treat potentially hazardous materials with caution. Evacuate your home or the building immediately using an exit that avoids the chemical.
- Do not attempt to clean up hazardous materials on your own as you could become ill or injured.
- Once outside, phone 9-1-1 using a cell phone or a neighbour's landline.
- Follow instructions from local authorities. They will clean up and dispose of the hazardous materials and inform you when the area is safe.

#### **Outdoor:**

- Leave the area immediately and shelter-in-place in the nearest building. Close and seal all doors and windows. Turn off the ventilation. If possible, notify others of the spill or release on your way to safety. Do not stay outside or within a vehicle.
- Once inside, phone 9-1-1 using a cellphone or landline.
- Follow instructions from local authorities using local news channels, emergency notifications or radio.



## Village of New Maryland

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