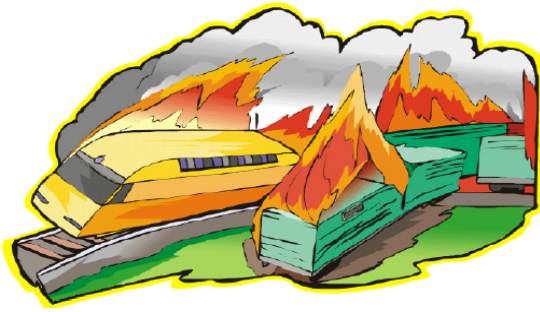


Chemical Emergencies



Under certain conditions, chemicals which are normally safe can be poisonous or harmful to your health. A major chemical emergency is an accident that releases a hazardous amount of a chemical into the environment. Accidents can happen underground, on railways or highways, and at manufacturing plants. They may involve fire or explosion, or you may be unable to see or smell anything.



You may be exposed to a chemical by:



- breathing the chemical.

- swallowing contaminated food, water or medication.



- touching the chemical, or coming into contact with clothing or other items that have touched the chemical.



If you are outdoors during a large-scale hazardous material release, stay upwind or upstream of the release and find shelter immediately.



Many people think of chemicals as only those substances used in manufacturing processes. But chemicals are found everywhere—in our kitchens, medicine cabinets, basements and garages.

The most common home chemical emergencies involve small children eating medicines.



Keep all medicines, cosmetics, cleaning products and other household chemicals out of sight and reach of children. If your child eats or drinks a non-food substance, find any containers immediately and take them to the phone. Call the poison control center or 911 and carefully follow the instructions you are given.

Home product precautions

- Avoid mixing household chemicals.



- Always read the directions before using a new product.

- Never smoke while using household chemicals.



- Clean up chemical spills immediately, protecting your eyes and skin.



- Dispose of products properly to protect our environment and wildlife.



Public Health
Prevent, Promote, Protect
Fargo Cass Public Health

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