

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENT

The following actions should be taken in the event of an outdoor chemical spill/hazardous materials incident.

Procedure:

1. Notify patients and staff that a hazmat incident has occurred that may impact their home or the office.
2. Tune into the Emergency Broadcasting System on the radio or television for further information and guidance. Monitor incident bulletins and relay updates to patients and staff.
3. Follow these steps at the office and advise patients to take similar steps to protect their home environment:
 - Close all doors to the outside and close and lock all windows.
 - Turn off all heating systems.
 - Turn off air conditioners and switch inlets to the "closed" position. Seal any gaps around window type air conditioners with tape and plastic sheeting, wax paper or aluminum wrap.
 - Turn off all exhaust fans in kitchens and bathrooms.
 - Close as many internal doors as possible in the building/home.
 - Use tape and plastic food wrapping, wax paper or aluminum wrap to cover and seal bathroom exhaust fans, range vents, dryer vents, and other openings to the outside.
 - If an explosion is possible outdoors, close drapes, curtains or shades over windows and stay away from windows to prevent injury from flying glass.
4. Remain in contact with patients for the duration of the incident and have patient call **911** if difficult breathing or other life threatening condition occurs.
5. For added protection, hold a wet cloth over nose and mouth. For a higher degree of protection, go into the bathroom, close the door and turn on the shower in a strong spray to wash the air.
6. Schedule follow-up visit after incident if patient complains of any change in condition.
7. Notify Emergency Response Coordinator if evacuation of patient was necessary.