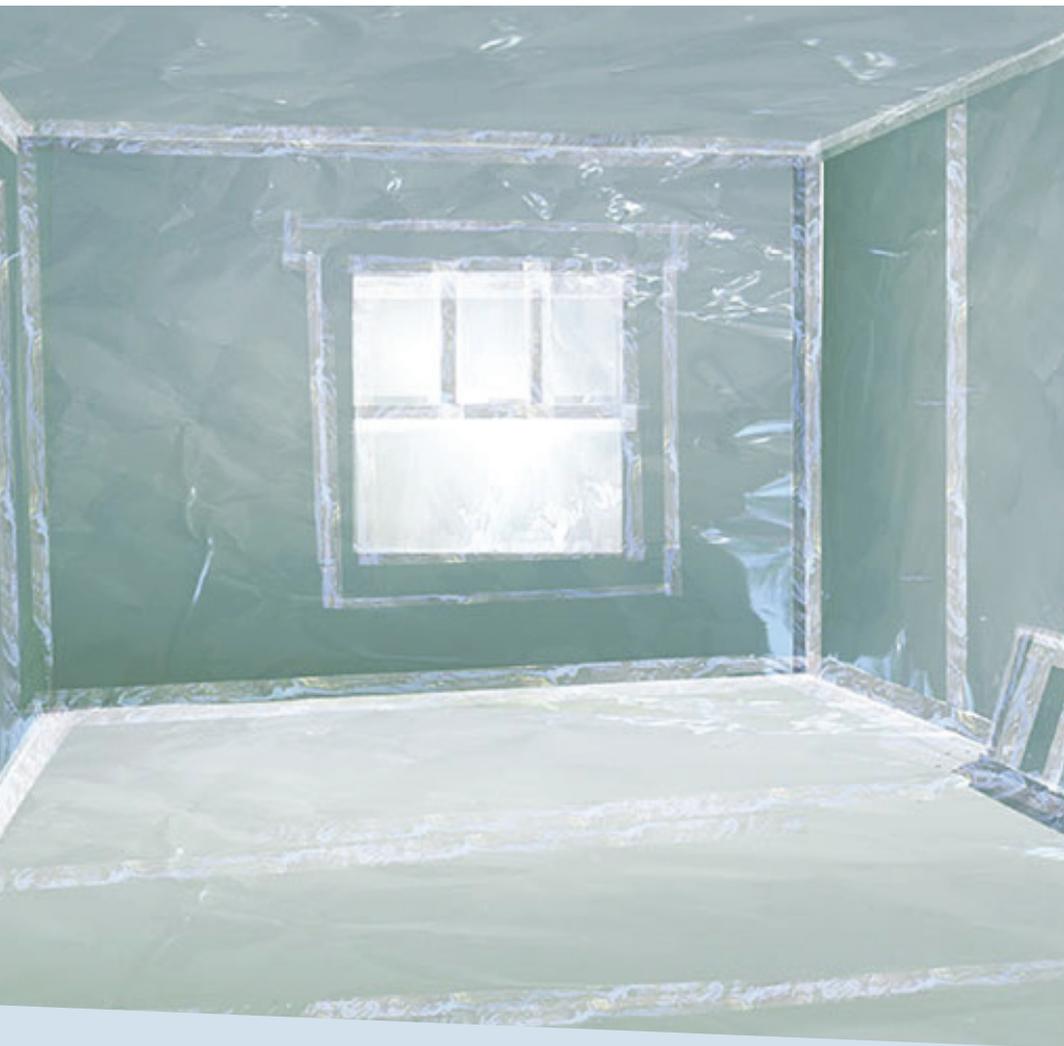


SHELTER-IN-PLACE

DANGEROUS GOODS INCIDENT



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Dangerous goods Incident.....	1
Things to do when you see, hear or smell a dangerous goods Incident	2
Why Shelter in Place is a Good Defense	4
When Ordered to Evacuate.....	6
After a dangerous goods Incident.....	6
Notes.....	8
Resources	10

DANGEROUS GOODS INCIDENT

Dangerous goods are chemicals that are harmful to human and to the environment. Accidents can cause us to take action to protect ourselves.



DANGEROUS GOODS

People may be exposed to dangerous goods when there is a fire or an accidental spill. Smoke and heat from a fire can carry dangerous goods, a spill on the ground can evaporate and enter the air, it may also be released as a gas and mix with the air. Once dangerous goods are in the air we may breathe it.

The dangerous goods may be seen as a cloud or it may not be seen at all. Sometimes we may be able to smell or taste dangerous goods to warn us of its presence. But this is not always the case and it is not the same for everybody. The effect that dangerous goods may have on our bodies depends on its nature, strength and the length of time that we are exposed to it.



THINGS TO DO WHEN YOU SEE, HEAR OR SMELL A DANGEROUS GOODS ACCIDENT

- Phone 9-1-1
- Stay away from the area and all routes of access so emergency responders can get there quickly.
- If you are in a vehicle, leave the area and avoid any visible clouds.
- Shelter-in-place until told to evacuate. See “Shelter-in-Place” and “Evacuation”.

SHELTER-IN-PLACE

“Shelter-in-place” refers to the practice of remaining indoors during the release of airborne dangerous goods or other noxious air pollutants, as opposed to evacuating the area. It can be your safest option in dangerous goods emergencies. Based on the circumstances, emergency preparedness officials will let residents know if “sheltering-in-place” is appropriate or if an evacuation is required. They will provide information through local radio or by other public notifications systems such as the Alberta Emergency Alert.

DANGEROUS GOODS RELEASE IN THE AIR

“Unless the dangerous goods are flammable, like natural gas, emergency response professionals recommend that you initially stay indoors (shelter-in-place) until you receive instructions to leave. If the dangerous goods are already around the building you are in, evacuation may not be safe since you would have to move through the dangerous goods. Your building can help protect you – shelter-in-place. If an evacuation is ordered, move to an area not affected by the dangerous goods, see “Evacuation”.

THINGS TO DO TO SHELTER-IN-PLACE

- Go indoors and stay there.
- Close all outside doors and every door inside the building.
- Close all windows.
- Do not use bathroom vents or kitchen vents.
- Set thermostats so air conditioners, furnaces and hot water heaters will not come on.
- Do not use fireplaces. Close all dampers.
- Do not operate clothes dryer.
- Shelter in an inside room away from windows and doors if possible.
- Reduce or avoid smoking as it contaminates the air.
- Do not leave the building until told to do so.
- Stay tuned to local television or radio for information.
- Do not use the telephone; you may tie up the phone lines.

THINGS TO DO FOR ADDED PROTECTION

- Seal the cracks around the doorway with wide tape and a rolled up damp towel at the floor space.
- If there is a window, tape a piece of plastic over the window to seal it.
- Be prepared ahead of time by cutting a piece of plastic to the window size and storing it and some tape in your shelter in place room.
It is imperative that you stay indoors, especially if you see a cloud, vapor, or smoke from the dangerous goods outdoors or you can smell it indoors. You will be safer inside.



WHY SHELTER IN PLACE IS A GOOD DEFENSE

Shelter in Place has been shown to be a safe response to a dangerous goods release of 3 hours or less. Our well weather-stripped buildings slow the movement of air into the buildings and any dangerous goods that do enter are weakened when they mix with the indoor air.

THINGS TO DO IF YOU ARE IN A VEHICLE AND ENCOUNTER AN AIRBORNE DANGEROUS GOODS RELEASE

- Move away from the “danger area” and avoid visible clouds.
- Turn on your radio and follow all instructions from emergency services personnel. If it is a flammable material you will be required to shut off your vehicle and evacuate the area.
- Close all windows and air vents. Shut off the heater or air conditioner so that it is not blowing air.
- In most cases you are safer to drive away from the area than to try and wait it out in a vehicle.
- If you can not drive out of the “danger area,” shut off your vehicle and wait with the radio on. Turn on your hazard lights and use your horn and headlights to attract attention and call 9-1-1.

SHELTER IN PLACE EMERGENCY KIT

Sheltering-in-place preparations can and should be part of your family Emergency Plan. You should add the following supplies to your family emergency kit:

- Plastic sheeting— to seal windows, vents and doors
- Duct tape—rolls of duct tape to be used to secure the plastic over windows/vents and to seal doors. (be aware that duct tape may damage finish)
- Battery operated radio with fresh batteries—in the event of a power outage, a battery operated radio is necessary to hear emergency notification announcements including the “all clear” when the emergency is over
- Flashlight with fresh batteries
- Enough towels to block the bottoms of each door in the door
- Bottled water for drinking
- Snack foods, and pet food, if necessary
- First aid kits
- Garbage bags can be used for storage of refuse or even as a bathroom
- Board games or cards

SAFE ROOM

Choose a room in your home that you designate a “safe-room”. It should have no or few windows, enough room for everyone who needs to shelter, and have access to water if possible. The room should not be in the basement. A room with an adjoining bath is an excellent choice. If possible, try to store your emergency kit in the room, in an under-the-bed box or a container that fits in a closet shelf or in a cabinet. There should also be a telephone in the sheltering room, either regular or cellular, for emergency use. In the event of a shelter-in-place emergency, gather your family into the “safe-room” along with your emergency kits and prepare all windows, vent and door coverings. These should be sealed to prevent hazards from entering. Turn off your furnace and air conditioning. Do not operate bathroom or kitchen fans, fireplaces or anything else that would allow outside air to enter your home. Stay tuned to your radio or TV station for information updates and wait for the “All Clear” announcement.



WHEN ORDERED TO EVACUATE:

Always follow the instructions of local emergency officials. They may come door to door or provide information through the local radio stations. Do not remain behind—doing so puts you and your family at risk, as well as those who may have to rescue you. Each family member should have an Emergency Kits with all the supplies they will need, take it with you. Remember your neighbors, particularly the elderly who may need your help or the assistance of emergency services. Secure your home by locking all doors and windows. Leave a note on your door to inform family members when you left and where you went.

WHEN LEAVING THE AREA:

- Follow all designated Evacuation Routes—do not take short cuts.
- Barricades are placed on roads for your protection. If you come across a barricade, follow the detour.
- Do not drive through the effected areas or response routes.
- Do not attempt search and rescue operations on your own. Call 9-1-1 for assistance.
- Do not return to your home or business while the Evacuation Order is in effect.

AFTER A DANGEROUS GOODS INCIDENT

Never return to your home or business until you know it is safe to do so. The local authorities will coordinate opening affected areas after a dangerous goods incident. Once back, it is important to listen to local radio stations for further information pertaining to the dangerous goods incident.

WHEN RETURNING TO THE AREA:

- Exercise extreme caution when returning to your home or business.
- Do not enter any building unless it has been cleared by local officials.

COMPLETE A DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

- Use a camera or video camera to record any damages to your property from the dangerous goods incident.
- Watch for information on Disaster Recovery Assistance programs administered by the Province of Alberta.

CLEANING YOUR PROPERTY

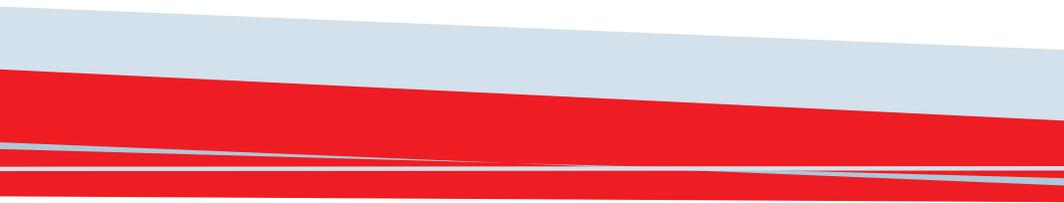
Protecting your health and the safety of others is important as you clean up after a dangerous goods. Some points to remember:

- Contact a professional dangerous goods cleaner
- Do not bring pets back in until it is safe
- Furniture and other items in your home or business that have been damaged by the dangerous goods incident will have to be discarded appropriately.

REOCCUPYING YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS

After the danger has passed, do not reoccupy your property until: Your property has been thoroughly cleaned and inspected.

NOTES:



NOTES:



GOVERNMENT OF CANADA RESOURCES:

PUBLIC SAFETY CANADA

For more emergency preparedness information, go to www.getprepared.ca

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA RESOURCES:

ALBERTA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Telephone: **780.422.9000** • Toll Free: **310.0000**

www.aema.alberta.ca

www.emergencyalert.alberta.ca

ALBERTA TRANSPORTATION

Telephone: **780.427.2731** • Toll Free: **310.0000**

www.transportation.alberta.ca

MUNICIPAL RESOURCES:

If you have questions, comments or concerns on the Municipal Emergency Plan or on creating disaster resilient communities & families please contact:

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

9909 Franklin Avenue, Fort McMurray, Alberta T9H 2K4

Telephone: **780.799.8085**

www.woodbuffalo.ab.ca