

Public Information Regarding Hazardous Materials Emergencies

If the protective actions of a shelter or evacuation is required by the public during a hazardous materials release, the public will be notified by one of the methods listed below:

- Route Alert Teams consisting of police, fire, or emergency management volunteers will go door to door with important instructions.
- The Emergency Alert System (EAS) will break into local radio and TV programming with emergency information.

During the duration of the emergency, individuals should stay tuned to local radio or television stations for information and updates as they become available.

Only call 911 if you require emergency police, fire, or ambulance services.

Public warning information will be transmitted via website, Swiftreach, and social media. Montour residents should sign up for Swiftreach and follow us on Facebook.

Montour County
Emergency Management Agency

Montour County
Local Emergency
Planning Committee



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Hazardous Materials Information



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Basic Information

Hazardous Materials are substances which, because of their chemical, physical, or biological properties, pose a potential risk to life, property, or the environment.

A hazardous material incident occurs when these materials are improperly used or are released from their containers in an uncontrolled state.

Hazardous materials are probably located in almost every home and business in the county. A few examples would be fuel, cleaning products, pesticides, herbicides, etc.

Always read the instructions before using chemical-based products, because even mixing common household cleaning agents can result in deadly vapors being produced.

Hazardous materials incidents could also occur at industrial facilities that use these products or along transportation routes used in shipping.

Exposure to some hazardous materials could cause immediate or long-term health consequences.

Public Protective Actions

Where there is a release of hazardous materials, the on-scene incident commander from emergency services may recommend sheltering or evacuating to protect the public from danger.

Shelter means to seek protection indoors, so you are not exposed to the vapors emitted by a hazardous materials release.

For this technique to be effective, all windows, doors, vents, and fireplace dampers must be closed. Heating, ventilation and air-conditioning units that draw outside air must be turned off.

An **Evacuation** will be ordered if there is a potential for the conditions to become extremely dangerous due to a release of hazardous materials.

Evacuations may be ordered with very little warning. Persons should have an inventory prepared listing those items you may want to gather in a hurry.

In large evacuations, an emergency shelter will be opened for displaced persons.

Family Emergency Planning

Every family should have a written family emergency plan. The plan should list the emergencies that could happen and the protective actions to be taken.

The document should also contain important telephone numbers, family meeting places, supplies needed for sheltering and items to be taken with you if you are evacuated.

In-Home Shelter Supplies:

- Battery operated radio
- Flashlight
- Extra batteries
- 3-day supply of non-perishable food
- 3-day supply of drinking water
- First aid kit
- Auxiliary heat source

Evacuation Supplies:

- Medicine
- Drinking water
- Non-perishable food
- Change of clothing and shoes
- Blanket and pillows
- Personal care items
- Personal phone book
- Keys and money
- Important documents
- Flashlight
- Battery operated radio
- First aid kit