

*Be Prepared!*

## The Emergency Planning and Community *Right-to-Know Act*

Passed in 1986, this act ensures the public's right to information about chemicals and chemical hazards present or transported in their communities.

The Right-To-Know Act includes access to the following information: the location of hazardous chemicals; the types of chemicals used, stored, and transported; the properties of chemicals and the potential hazards posed; and the plans in place to respond to a chemical emergency.

It all begins with awareness. Get acquainted with the chemical hazards in your community. It is the first step for being prepared to act quickly and safely in the event of an emergency.

*Be aware  
Be prepared*

Home Safety  
and Hazardous  
Materials

Chemical accidents  
can happen  
*anywhere*



These accidents are not just industrial spills. A fire, pipeline or traffic accident can bring a chemical hazard into your neighborhood.

The St. Charles County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) wants you to know more about chemical hazards and how to prepare your home.



Local Emergency  
Planning Committee  
(LEPC)

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ST. CHARLES  
COUNTY



Courtesy of



Local Emergency  
Planning Committee  
(LEPC)

ST. CHARLES  
COUNTY



# Everyone plays a part in community preparedness!

## Doing Our Part

The St. Charles County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) brings together representatives from many professions and organizations for the benefit of the entire community. Members include:

- Law enforcement
- Fire and rescue services
- Hazardous material responders
- Emergency dispatch centers
- Emergency medical services
- Community health services
- Emergency management
- Hospitals and medical facilities
- Business and industry organizations
- Utility companies
- Public works organizations
- Environmental services
- Volunteer organizations

The St. Charles County LEPCs goals include:

- Community awareness through public outreach programs, including informing the public about the Community Right-to-Know Act.
- Collective community planning to improve response efficiency and safety for emergency responders and residents.
- Funding training and equipment for local emergency response teams and agencies.
- Serving as a centralized source of information about hazardous materials in the community. Information is provided directly from local facility operators.

## Doing Your Part

### Prevention at Home

The most common chemical accidents take place in our homes and can be prevented by:

- Reading and following the instructions for using, storing and disposing of chemical products.
- Keeping household chemicals out of sight and reach of children.
- Buying only as much of a chemical as you will use. The more you store, the greater the risk of an accident.

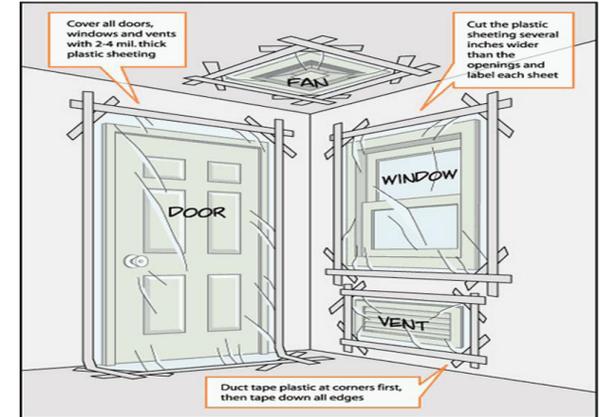
### Preparedness at Home

- Learn about types of hazards that could occur in your community.
- Discuss possible emergencies ahead of time with your family to help reduce fear and anxiety.
- Make an emergency plan, discuss and rehearse with your family.
- Find out about the emergency plans for your workplace and children's schools.
- Put together an emergency supplies kit for your home and vehicle. Be sure to include a radio and spare batteries so you can receive information and updates during an emergency.
- Learn first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).
- Learn how to "shelter in place."

For more information, visit:

[health.mo.gov/emergencies/ready](http://health.mo.gov/emergencies/ready) in 3, or [sccmo.org/Preparedness-Planning-for-All-Hazards](http://sccmo.org/Preparedness-Planning-for-All-Hazards).

## Six Steps for Safety During Hazardous Chemical Incidents



**Step 1: Move inside.** Go inside your house or apartment immediately to avoid exposure to airborne chemicals that may be inhaled or absorbed through the skin.

**Step 2: Close and lock all windows and doors** to keep chemicals from seeping into your home.

**Step 3: Turn off ventilation.** This includes heating or cooling systems, fans, and anything that moves air into your home from outside or moves it around inside. Do your best to close off wood burning stove and fireplace flues.

**Step 4: Seal a room (pictured above).** Choose a room; close and seal doors and windows with towels, plastic and tape; and stay in that room. Cover air vents, too.

**Step 5: Turn on the radio or television.** There will be updates and more specific instructions. Be prepared to follow these quickly.

**Step 6: Stay off of the phone.** Do not call 911 unless you need emergency assistance.