

**Long Term Care - Introduction to Facility
Emergency Plans**

**Hazardous Material
Spill/Release – External**

What is a “Hazardous Materials Spill/Release – External?”

- A hazardous material spill/release external refers to the release of a hazardous material outside of your facility which requires the exclusion of air from the facility and the staff, residents and visitors to shelter in place.
- Shelter in place - This is a precaution aimed to keep you safe while remaining indoors. Depending on the emergency this may include moving inside and closing doors and windows, disabling building ventilation and air conditioning and/or moving to an interior room, with no or few windows, and taking refuge there.
- The plan may be referred to in a variety of ways depending on the facility. Some refer to it as “Code Grey External,” some “Code Grey”, others “Shelter in Place” or other variations. Refer your facility’s All Hazards/Emergency Plan to determine what your plan is called.

What is a “**Hazardous Materials Spill/Release – External?**”

- Some objectives of an external hazardous materials spill/release plan include :
 - ▶ Moving residents;
 - ▶ Staff and visitors inside;
 - ▶ Excluding potentially contaminated air from the facility;
 - ▶ Preventing/advising staff, visitors and residents from leaving the facility;
 - ▶ Alerting other off site staff/returning staff of the situation; and
 - ▶ Making contact with first responders.

Discovery of a **Hazardous Materials Spill/Release – External**

If you discover a hazardous materials spill/release external to your facility:

- Contact the RN Supervisor to inform them of the incident using the means outlined in your facility's All Hazards Plan (e.g. overhead paging, telephone, runner, etc.)
- Return to your neighbourhood/department to be accounted for by Team Leaders.

Hazardous Materials Spill/Release – External

– All Staff Will

- Check exits/courtyards in your area for residents and staff and call them to come in side/inform them of the event.
- Don't leave the building once inside.
- Account for residents in your area and provide count to Neighbourhood/Department Team Leader, noting the names of any missing residents. The Team Leader will provide this information to the Incident Commander.
- Shut exterior doors and windows and shut off any window mounted air conditioning units.
- Shut down any potential sources of ignition, e.g. hand held lighters, pilot lights, microwaves etc.
- Monitor staff, residents and visitors for exposure and treat as necessary.

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Things to remember:

- Hazardous materials can be dangerous if handled, ingested, inhaled.
- While staff can advise visitors to remain in the building they cannot prevent them from leaving.
- If an area becomes unsafe, staff are free to remove residents, visitors and other staff as necessary.

Know Your Facility – Hazardous Material Spill/Release - External

You should be familiar with:

- Locations exits in your area.
- Locations of sources of ignition in your area.
- Available emergency communications tools/devices (paging system, phones, radios etc.)
- Location of the facility All Hazards/Emergency Plan.

Where to go to learn more!

- Facility All Hazards/Emergency Plan
- Supervisor
- www.healthpei.ca/scr/ltc
- Contact Emergency Health and Planning Services - spdaley@gov.pe.ca

Thank you!

Health PEI

One Island Health System