

CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL, NUCLEAR (CBRN)

WHAT IT IS

Intentional attacks using weaponized or non-weaponized chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear materials can cause great harm and pose significant threats. Weaponized materials can be delivered by using conventional bombs, improvised explosive materials, enhanced blast weapons, and even non-explosive dispersion devices (including canisters and envelopes). Non-weaponized chemical materials are typically categorized as “hazardous materials” (HazMat).

CBRN releases sometimes require extended clean-up efforts and/or law enforcement investigations, and they may therefore result in residents being unable to be in their homes for long periods of time.

WHAT TO DO

Before (Preparedness/ Mitigation)

- Sign up for Fairfax Alerts and have a battery or crank powered radio available.
- Identify a shelter-in-place area within your home.
- Learn First Aid.
- Refer to “Medical Emergency,” below.

During (Response)

- Listen to official information: if you are told to evacuate, do so.
- If you are told to stay inside:
 - Take family members and pets to your predetermined shelter-in-place location.
 - Close all windows and vents, seal windows and doors with tape or wet towels, and turn off all fans and air-exchange heating or cooling systems.
- If you are outside at the time of the incident, try to stay upstream, uphill, and upwind.

KEY TERMS

- ▶ An **Accidental CBRN incident** is an incident containing a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear material caused by human error, natural or technological reasons, such as spills, accidental releases or leakages. Accidental release of non-weaponized chemical materials is typically categorized as a “hazardous materials” (HazMat) incident.
- ▶ An **Intentional CBRN incident** is a criminal act that involves serious violence against persons or property or the illegal dumping of chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear materials.

- If you are in a vehicle, stop and find shelter in a permanent building.
 - Stay away from the incident site.
 - Local officials may direct you to locations to receive medical treatment or services. Follow all instructions provided by local officials through the media.
- ### After (Recovery)
- Leave your shelter-in-place location or return home when officials say it is safe.
 - Check in with family and friends by texting or using social media.