

Childcare



Chemical Emergency Plan

Guidelines

Distributed by:

Kent County Emergency Planning Committee
Kent County Sheriff's Dept.
Office of Emergency Management
701 Ball Ave.
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
616-632-6257

Grand Rapids Emergency Planning Committee
Grand Rapids Fire Dept.
38 LaGrave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
616-456-3900

Childcare Facilities and Providers:

The attached "Childcare Chemical Emergency Planning Guidelines" has been developed jointly by the Kent County and Grand Rapids Local Emergency Planning Committees in an effort to provide you with guidance and advice on how to deal with hazardous chemical emergencies that might impact on your facility and the valuable lives which are entrusted to you.

While every potential emergency is different and may require some unique actions specific to that emergency, the information contained in this material represents general guidelines that should be of assistance to you in planning ahead for such situations.

Emergency Management planners and Public Safety officials all agree that advanced planning represents your best chance at surviving a real emergency event should one occur in your area.

Please take the necessary time to review this information and incorporate these guidelines into the plans you develop for your facility. Your efforts will be to me well spent.

If you have any questions or need any additional assistance in developing your plans, feel free to contact your Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) whose address and phone numbers are listed in this guide.

We at the Kent County and Grand Rapids Emergency Planning Committees and the youngsters that you care for, will appreciate your efforts.

Yours truly,

Deb Alderink, Chairperson, Kent County LEPC

Julie Bulson, Chairperson, Grand Rapids LEPC

CHILDCARE CHEMICAL EMERGENCY PLAN GUIDELINES

PARENT INFORMATION LETTER

Dear Childcare Families:

Our childcare facility, with the help of the Kent County and Grand Rapids Local Emergency Planning Committees, has developed a Chemical Emergency Plan to be implemented in the event of a chemical release, explosion or spill. The Chemical Emergency Plan will be used in the same way as our emergency fire and tornado plans which give us a plan of action to follow in a potentially dangerous situation.

In the event of a chemical disaster near our childcare facility, we would be alerted to the possibility of the danger by local public warning sirens, NOAA Weather alert radio, or by the local TV or radio stations. We would listen carefully to the information and instructions from the local fire department. The instructions may be to stay put and shelter-in-place, or to evacuate to announced shelter locations. In the event that we were instructed to evacuate, but the media announced no shelter locations, we would evacuate to _____, _____, _____, or _____, depending upon instructions from the fire department and direction of the wind.

Families of children in our care should also listen to local TV and radio stations for information. They should not call 911 and ask questions. Only call 911 if you need police, fire department or paramedics for an emergency. The fire department will relay information through the media.

We realize childcare families will be concerned about the safety of their children and want to pick them up as soon as possible. If we are sheltering-in-place, children will be unable to leave the facility until the fire department has determined it is safe to do so. If we evacuate the facility, the media may announce shelter locations and children may leave as their parents or guardians arrive. If no shelter locations are announced, children will be at one of the four shelter sites specified in this letter and may leave when their parents or guardians arrive. We will take emergency contact phone numbers of the children in our care to the shelter sites. It is important that childcare families keep this information up to date.

Thank you for taking the time to review our Chemical Emergency Plan guidelines. We will be happy to answer questions or furnish further details. If your family would like more information on emergency planning, please contact:

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