



## After a Hazardous Materials Incident

“Do not return home until authorities say it is safe.”

- ① Do not return home until authorities say it is safe.
- ② Upon returning home, open windows and vents, and turn on fans to provide ventilation.
- ③ A person or item that has been exposed to a hazardous material may be contaminated and could contaminate other people or items. If you have come in contact with or been exposed to hazardous materials:
  - Follow decontamination instructions from your local authorities.
  - Stay away from water or showers until you know if the material reacts with water.
  - Seek medical treatment for unusual symptoms that may be related to hazardous materials release.
  - If medical help is not available immediately and you believe you may be contaminated, remove all of your clothing and shower thoroughly (unless authorities advise otherwise). Change into fresh, loose, warm clothing and seek medical help as soon as possible.
  - Place exposed clothing and shoes in tightly sealed container without allowing them to touch other materials and call local authorities to find out about proper disposal.
  - Advise others who come in contact with you that you may have been exposed to a toxic substance.
- ④ Report any lingering vapors or other hazards to your local emergency services.
- ⑤ Find out from local authorities how to clean up your land and property.

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Adapted by UF/IFAS from:  
*Extension Agent's Handbook for Emergency Preparation and Response*  
(Texas Agricultural Extension Services and the Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center)