



MAJOR ACCIDENTS



WHAT IS CONSIDERED A MAJOR ACCIDENT?

A major accident is any accident serious enough to warrant response by the installation Disaster Response Force (DRF). These differ from the day-to-day emergencies handled by local emergency responders. A major accident may involve one or more of the following: aircraft accident/incident, toxic materials, hazardous substances, explosives, etc.

FOUR PHASES OF RESPONSE TO A MAJOR ACCIDENT

Notification - The installation is notified of an actual or potential major accident. Evacuation is started (if necessary), the DRF is alerted, and higher headquarters and local civilian authorities are notified.

Response - The Initial Response Element (IRE) responds to the accident scene to establish command and control. They immediately begin life-saving, rescue, mitigation, and containment actions. Evacuation is continued if needed.

Withdrawal - Occurs when the emergency response forces are in imminent danger or if further actions are futile. Withdrawal can be immediate or planned.

Recovery - Restores the area and operations to normal pre-accident conditions.



ACTIONS TO CONSIDER

BEFORE

- Research the most common major accidents in your area.
- Understand the threats in your area and how best to react in times of crises.
- Create an evacuation plan for your family and have a backup route in mind.
- Determine an out-of-town relative that family members can use as a contact if separated.
- Determine a safe shelter for animals and livestock.
- Assemble an emergency supply kit.

DURING

- Listen to the local radio or television stations for detailed information and instructions.
- Evacuate immediately or shelter-in-place as directed.
- Provide first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) if you are trained to do so.
- Report the incident to local authorities.
- Stay away from the accident area unless you are involved in the recovery process.

AFTER

- Stay away from the accident area; there may be unknown dangers at or near the scene.
- Listen to local radio or television stations for the latest emergency information.
- Help a neighbor who may require special assistance – large families, children, elderly, and individuals with disabilities.
- Notify friends or family of your condition.
- Use phone services sparingly.
- If you were directed to evacuate, do not return home until local authorities give the *All Clear*.
- If gas or vapors could have entered the building, take shallow breaths through a cloth or a towel. Avoid eating or drinking food or water that may be contaminated.

DID YOU KNOW...

In October of 1986 the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) was signed into law. This act was passed so individuals could obtain information about chemicals that are manufactured, stored, used, and released within their community.

Contact your Installation's Office of Emergency Management for further information.

