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PROVEN PRACTICE

Training

English/Spanish Protective Action Outreach

SUMMARY

This single page provides bilingual information and guidance for the public on the actions to take to implement a shelter-in-place or evacuation order from local authorities to protect them from a known hazardous chemical release.

DESCRIPTION

FEMA's Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program in Colorado developed this bilingual outreach material as a page of the annual emergency preparedness calendar for a community adjacent to a now-closed U.S. Army chemical weapons stockpile. The calendar was developed locally and then distributed to residents who might be asked to shelter-in-place or evacuate in the event of an incident involving the former stockpile.

The calendar was intended for local citizens, institutions, and businesses. The material provides a basic guide to two key protective actions: evacuation and sheltering-in-place. It identifies general conditions under which such an order may be issued by local authorities and provides the basic steps for the public to follow to evacuate or shelter-in-place in an actual emergency. The material was translated into Spanish for the Pueblo, Colorado, community.

Please note that this material is intended to address sheltering-in-place to protect against exposure to hazardous chemicals; the approach described may not be appropriate for other situations that could result in an order to shelter-in-place from local authorities, such as a weather emergency or an active shooter situation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Jurisdictions with a protective action strategy that includes both evacuation and shelter-in-place for the public in the event of a hazardous chemical release should consider adding this material to their public safety outreach efforts, whether through a community newsletter; an agency website; handouts for community meetings and events; or flyers for schools, hospitals, and other populations that may be at risk from a chemical accident due to the proximity of a storage or processing facility or a transportation route. Additional sections of the calendar covering family emergency planning and local natural hazards are available.

REFERENCES

This material is available to download from LLIS.