

## Household Chemical Emergency

- Nearly every household in the U.S. uses products containing hazardous materials or chemicals
- The general risk of a home chemical incident is slight
- Consider substituting less hazardous or “green” chemicals for use in your home
- Take protective measures
  - Buy only as much chemical as you think you will use
  - Keep products containing hazardous materials in their original containers
  - NEVER store chemicals in household food containers
  - Never mix household hazardous chemicals
    - The combination of bleach and ammonia produce a toxic chemical cloud
  - Keep household chemicals in secure cabinets to prevent access by children
  - Follow all manufacturer’s instructions for proper use
  - Do not store or use chemicals near heat sources, food preparation areas
  - Clean up household chemical spills immediately
    - Wear latex dishwashing gloves to prevent skin contact
    - Open a window or door to ventilate the area while cleaning
    - Store cleaned materials properly (i.e. paint thinner is flammable, so it shouldn’t be placed in the kitchen waste bin)
    - Discard any contaminated clothing
  - NEVER store flammable chemicals like gasoline, propane etc. in your basement
- Recognize the symptoms of chemical poisoning:
  - Difficulty breathing
  - Irritation of the eyes, skin, throat, or respiratory tract
  - Changes in skin color
  - Headache or blurred vision
  - Dizziness
  - Clumsiness or lack of coordination
  - Vomiting or diarrhea

***Call 911 in the event you suspect a household chemical poisoning. Provide details of what chemical the victim may have been exposed to and the route of exposure (swallowing, breathing or contact with the skin)if known.***

National Poison Control phone number should be posted near your telephone: 1-800-222-1222

- If there is a danger of fire or explosion in your home due to chemicals:
  - Get out of the house immediately
  - DO NOT call the fire department from within your home
    - Go outside and use your cell phone or call from a neighbor’s house
  - Stay upwind from the home to avoid breathing toxic fumes