
Public Information Annex

SAMPLE RADIO MESSAGE: Unidentified spill/release in heavy traffic area

This is _____ at the _____. An unidentified substance which may be hazardous has been [spilled/released] at (specific location). Please avoid the area, if possible, while crews are responding. The best alternate routes are _____
_____. If you are already in the area, please be patient and follow directions of emergency response personnel. The substance will be evaluated by specially trained personnel, and further information will be released as soon as possible.

Thank you for your cooperation.

SAMPLE RADIO MESSAGE: Low hazard / confined spill / release (No general evacuation)

This is _____ at the _____. A small amount of _____, a hazardous substance, has been [spilled/released] at _____. Streets are blocked, traffic is restricted, and authorities have asked residents in the immediate block area to evacuate. Please avoid the area.

The material is [slightly/highly] toxic to humans and can cause the following symptoms: _____

If you think you may have come in contact with this material, you should (give health instructions and hot line number, if available). For your safety, please avoid the area if at all possible. Alternate routes are identified and traffic is being diverted. If you are now near the [spill/release] area please follow directions of emergency response personnel. Cleanup crews are on the scene.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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SAMPLE RADIO MESSAGE: High hazard spill/release. General evacuation [requested/mandatory]

This is _____ at the _____. A large/small amount of _____, a highly hazardous substance, has been [spilled/released] at _____. Because of the potential health hazard, authorities are [requesting/requiring] all residents within _____ [blocks/miles] of the area to evacuate. If you are within (give evacuation zone boundaries), you and your family [should/must] leave [as soon as possible/now]. Go immediately to the home of a friend or relative outside the evacuation area or to (indicate shelter). If you can drive a neighbor who has no transportation, please do so. If you need transportation, call _____. Children attending the following schools: (list) will be evacuated to _____. Do not drive to your child's school. Pick your child up from school authorities at the evacuation center.

Listen to this station for instructions.

The material is highly toxic to humans and can cause the following symptoms: _____

If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, seek help at a hospital outside the evacuation area, or at the evacuation center at _____.

To repeat, if you are in the area of _____ you [should/must] leave, for your own safety. Do not use your telephone unless you need help.

SUMMARY STATEMENT FOR MEDIA

(To be adapted to the situation)

At approximately ____ [a.m./p.m.] today a [spill/release] of a potentially hazardous substance was reported to this office by (a private citizen, city employee, etc.) [Sheriff/fire] were immediately dispatched to cordon off the area and direct traffic. The material was later determined to be _____ (describe), a [hazardous/harmless] [chemical/substance/material/gas] which, upon contact, may produce symptoms of _____. Precautionary evacuation of the [immediate/block] area surrounding the spill was [requested/required] by (agency). Approximately _____ persons were evacuated. (Number) clean-up crews from (agency/jurisdiction) were dispatched to the scene, and normal traffic had resumed by (time), at which time residents were allowed to return to their homes. There were no injuries reported -OR- (Number) persons, including [fire, police] personnel, were treated at area hospitals for _____ and [all/number] were later released. Those remaining in the hospital are in _____ condition. Response agencies involved were _____.

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SAMPLE RADIO/TV MESSAGE: Roads closed due to flooding

This is _____ from the _____. The recent storm has caused [severe/moderate] flooding in [several/many] areas of the district. Numerous county roads are closed due to localized flooding. Motorists are advised to use extreme caution when traveling and avoid unnecessary travel. The following major travel routes are closed:

Please avoid these routes. If you must travel, use alternate routes. Again, the major travel routes which have been closed are:

Please stay tuned to this station for more road closure information.

SAMPLE RADIO/TV MESSAGE: Evacuation ordered due to flood danger

This is _____ (high ranking official if possible). The flooding situation continues in parts of _____ (community) and may worsen. For your safety, I am asking that all people in the following area leave as soon as possible: (give boundaries of local area, evacuation routes).

Take items you may need, such as medicine, special foods, personal items, baby supplies, clothing, money, and valuable papers -- but do not overload your car. Lock your home before you leave. If you smell gas, turn off your gas connection. Turn off the water and disconnect all electrical appliances except refrigerators and freezers. Be sure you have a full tank of gasoline in your car. Be sure to check on any neighbors who may need help.

If you cannot stay with relatives or friends outside of the evacuated area, go to (one of) the Red Cross shelter(s) at: (give locations)

Pets are not allowed in Red Cross shelters. If you cannot make arrangements for someone outside the evacuated area to take care of your pet, (give instructions). Do not allow your pet to run loose. If you cannot make arrangements for your large animals, (give instructions).

If you have no means of transportation or if you are physically unable to evacuate on your own, ask a neighbor to help you or call _____. Otherwise, please do not use your telephone except to report an emergency.

I repeat. If you live in the _____ area (give boundaries), you [should/must] leave for your own safety. Stay tuned to this station for more information and instructions.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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