

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

DEFINITION – Environmental hazards are hazards that pose threats to the natural environment, the built environment, and public safety through the diffusion of harmful substances, materials, or products. **SARA facilities** are those that use, store, and/or release hazardous chemicals present at or above established EPA threshold amounts. For the purposes of the SSAHMP, environmental hazards include the following:

- ▶ **Hazardous material releases at fixed facilities or in transit;** including toxic chemicals, infectious substances, biohazardous waste, and any materials that are explosive, corrosive, flammable, or radioactive (PL 1990-165, § 207(e)).
- ▶ **Coal mining incidents;** including the release of the release of harmful chemical and waste materials into water bodies or the atmosphere, explosions, fires, and other hazards and threats to life safety stemming from mining (Environmental Protection Agency, Natural Disaster PSAs, 2009).
- ▶ **Oil and gas well incidents;** including the release of the release of harmful chemical and waste materials into water bodies or the atmosphere, explosions, fires, and other hazards and threats to life safety stemming from oil and gas extraction (Environmental Protection Agency, Natural Disaster PSAs, 2009).



MITIGATION ACTIONS FOR RESIDENTS

- ▶ **Personal Preparedness** – It is important to plan for disasters. Families may not be together or at home. Consider completing the following to be prepared.
 - **Family Emergency Communication Plan** (FEMA) serves as a comprehensive checklist for household disaster preparedness. [FEMA Family Emergency Communication Plan Checklist](#)
 - **Family Disaster Plan** (American Red Cross) – Communication networks and electricity could be disrupted. Planning in advance will help ensure that all the members of your household know how to reach each other and where to meet up in an emergency. [American Red Cross Family Disaster Plan Template](#)
 - **Emergency Kits** – It is always a good idea to have an emergency kit on hand. Consider basic items as well as special needs.
 Build a Kit (Ready.gov) [ready.gov Build-a-Kit](#)
 Survival Kit Supplies (American Red Cross) [American Red Cross Survival Kit Supplies Checklist](#)
- ▶ **Emergency Alerts and Warnings** – To receive emergency alerts and warnings, refer to the following websites, mobile apps, and other resources.
 - **American Red Cross Mobile Apps** (Apple App Store, Google Play, or text to “90999”
[Mobile Apps - The American Red Cross](#)

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- **South Central Alert** – This service allows residents and businesses in an eight county area to be notified of an emergency situation and important alert messages in a variety of ways, including on their cell phones, home and work phones, by text messaging and e-mail.
[South Central Alert - Sign Up](#)
- Monitor police news feeds, weather, and news on social media or websites. Receiving periodic updates is vital.
- ▶ **Awareness** – Ask your local fire department or emergency management agency for information on hazardous materials in your community. Find out what clinical signs these toxins may cause if a person or an animal has been exposed.



MITIGATION ACTIONS FOR MUNICIPALITIES

- ▶ **Adopt the York County Hazard Mitigation Plan** by resolution or develop and implement a municipal hazard mitigation plan. [York County Hazard Mitigation Plan](#)
- ▶ **Prepare a Continuity of Operations Plan** to ensure that essential functions continue to be performed under a broad range of circumstances, protecting residents and minimizing business interruption. Consider what capital improvements are needed to adequately protect business or properties. [FEMA Continuity of Operations Brochure](#)
- ▶ **Prepare an Emergency Operations Plan** which describe who will do what, as well as when, with what resources, and by what authority – before, during, and immediately after an emergency. [FEMA Guide for All Hazards Emergency Operations Planning Guide](#)
- ▶ **Coordination** – Develop pre-disaster Memorandums of Agreements or Memorandum of Understanding with adjacent jurisdictions. Build partnerships (neighborhoods, emergency management/first responders, businesses, utility service providers, and local government agencies to strengthen response and recovery.
- ▶ **Public Education and Outreach** – Educate residents regarding risk and impact of hazards, how to prepare and protect themselves and their property. Facilitate funding for mitigation measures and technical assistance programs that address measures that citizens can take.

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), also known as SARA Title III, provides an infrastructure at the state and local levels to plan for chemical emergencies. Facilities that store, use, or release certain chemicals may be subject to reporting requirements. Reported information is publicly available so that interested parties may become informed about potentially dangerous chemicals in their community. Employers must also communicate the hazards of workplace chemicals and ensure that workers receive education and training.

- ▶ **Zoning and Land Use Planning** – Hazardous material exposure can be prevented or reduced by separation and buffering between industrial areas and other land uses. Industrial areas should be

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located away from schools, nursing homes, hospitals, and other facilities with large or vulnerable populations.

- ▶ **Emergency Operations Plans** – The community's emergency operation plan must include the following: identification of local facilities and transportation routes where hazardous materials are present; procedures for immediate response in case of an accident, including a community-wide evacuation plan; a plan for notifying the public that an incident has occurred; names of response coordinators at local facilities; and a plan for conducting simulation exercises that test the plan.
- ▶ **Risk Management Plans** – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations require development of Risk Management Plans for sites that manufacture, store, or handle hazardous materials. The details of Chemical Accident Prevention and Risk Management Programs are managed by EPA's Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Office (CEPPO).