

Chemical Spills or Gas Leak
CODE BROWN

Purpose

- To contain all persons within the building in the event of toxic fumes or large-scale chemical/gas release or spill (containment may also occur in one section of the Home).

Method of Warning

- Warnings may be initiated by the County of Lambton who will implement their emergency plan.
- Communicated through various media outlets.

The Containment Plan Procedure

- The Charge Nurse will initiate the containment plan.
- The Charge Nurse or delegate will notify the Director of Nursing and Personal Care, the Administrator, the Medical Director, and all others in the building that the containment plan is in effect. The Childcare Centre and the Board of the Apartments will also be notified by assigned staff.
- Each resident neighbourhood is to remain supervised and Residents are to be re-assured to avoid panic and anxiety.
- Close all windows and doors.

Duties of Charge Person

- 1) Establish control centre.
- 2) Relocate residents, if necessary. Ensure all residents are accounted for.
- 3) Designate persons to:
 - Document action taken, information received and time of events;
 - Be aware of updated information through various media outlets or through the Emergency Management Department of the County of Lambton;
 - Initiate emergency call out procedure to communicate instructions;
 - Control entry and exit of all persons, except for emergency personnel;
 - Post appropriate alert signs at all exits; and
 - Notify all persons on site, adjacent apartments and Childcare Centre.
- 4) Estimate the required hours of containment to determine staff roles and availability. Staff duties and roles may change in an emergency situation.
- 5) Co-ordinate the meals and food service with the responsible Supervisor or designate.
- 6) Establish reception areas to provide sleeping accommodation for all persons requiring overnight stays.
- 7) Co-ordinate linen requirements with the responsible Supervisor
- 8) Refer news media inquiries to the General Manager of the Long-Term Care Division or designate.

External Disaster Procedure

In the event of an external chemical/gas release or spill:

- Shut down heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems by turning the key switches located in the main reception area next to mail boxes (illustration on next page). Also turn off any manual exhaust systems - bathrooms, etc.
- Close all drapes and curtains – if necessary use bed sheets to fully cover windows and doorways.
- Place moist towels at base of external doors to act as an air seal.
- Obtain tap water for future use if water supply seems threatened – you may need to fill tubs and pails.
- Refer to the County of Lambton's Chemical Emergencies website for further guidance.

Internal Disaster Procedure

Chemical/Gas Release or Spill:

- 1) Notify Charge Nurse or delegate of the spill. Secure area by restricting access. Relocate residents if necessary.
- 2) Remove any potential ignition sources and unplug nearby electrical equipment. If safe to do so, prevent chemical from entering drains.
- 3) Review SDS for accidental release measures and clean-up methods.
- 4) Confirm and contain spill following SDS guidelines.
- 5) Larger spills may require assistance of local agencies such as fire and/or local community authorities.
- 6) When danger or emergency situation has been resolved and person in charge announces all clear.

Gas Leak:

- 1) Signs of a gas leak:
 - a. Smell - A distinctive rotten egg or sulphur like odour
 - b. Sound - Hissing, roaring or whistling

- c. Sight - Damaged connections to natural gas appliances or vegetation that is dead or dying for no reason
- 2) Notify Charge Nurse or delegate of the gas leak. Immediately notify local gas company 1-877-969-0999 and call 911.
- 3) If safe to do so shut off gas supply to building.
- 4) Use every practical means to eliminate sources of ignition.
- 5) Evacuate the building of all persons.
- 6) Once Fire Department/Local Gas Company gives the All Clear, residents can enter the Home.

All Clear

When danger and/or emergency situation has been resolved, the person in charge announces the **ALL CLEAR** over the Nurse Call system followed by notification to the Administrator and General Manager of the Long-Term Care Division or designate.

Communicate the containment plan, procedure and outcome to the Administrator and General Manager of the Long-Term Care Division ASAP.

The Lodge

Emergency Lock Down Procedure:

Refer to Site specific site procedures.

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The Villa

Emergency Lock Down Procedure:

Refer to Site specific site procedures.

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The Manor

Emergency Lock Down Procedure:

Refer to Site specific site procedures.

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How to quickly shut down the HVAC system

Refer to Site specific site procedures.