NEW YORK CITY COMMUNITY

RIGHT-TO-KNOW

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHEMICAL SAFETY AND SPILL PREVENTION DURING FLOODING EVENTS

Dear owners, operators, and managers:

Hurricane Sandy presented New York City with a broad range of challenges that we can all learn from. We expect extreme weather events of various kinds to occur with greater frequency, and it makes sense to prepare for them properly in advance.

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection is providing these recommendations to help you minimize the effects of flooding and other events on public health and the environment. These recommendations can save you money, keep your inventory secure, and help protect us all from hazardous spills and releases.

Thank you for working with us to make our city a safer place to live and work.

Emily Lloyd
Commissioner

NYC Environmental Protection

05-14

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHEMICAL SAFETY AND SPILL PREVENTION DURING FLOODING EVENTS

- **Use appropriate storage containers.**
  - Containers such as flammable and acid cabinets should be used when storing chemicals.
  - Ensure lids are tightly sealed to reduce the risk of leakage.
- **Properly label all containers.**
- **Segregate chemicals.**
  - Do not mix incompatible chemicals.
  - Safely secure all cylinders and water reactive chemicals.
- **Minimize the amount of chemicals on site.**
  - Order only what you need.
- **Properly elevate all materials.**
  - If possible, elevate chemicals off the ground using drum spill containment pallets.
  - Familiarize yourself with FEMA flood maps to understand how high to elevate hazardous materials.
- **Schedule pick-ups and deliveries appropriately.**
  - Whenever possible, schedule pick-ups for waste chemicals prior to extreme weather events.
  - Postpone deliveries until after extreme weather events.
- **Ensure inventory records are current.**
  - Keep important duplicate paperwork and files offsite in a secure location as a precaution.
- **Check weather forecasts regularly.**
  - Take standard storm precautions to harden your facility against potential storm damage.
- **Review and implement emergency procedures if a Risk Management Plan is required for your facility.**
  - Ensure employees are trained in all emergency protocols.
  - Keep all contact information current.
  - Notify the appropriate authorities once it is determined that your facility has been affected.

Scan for more information or visit **nyc.gov/dep**

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