

Augusta County Emergency Services Officers Association

*Augusta County Government Center
P.O. Box 590 – 18 Government Center Lane
Verona, Virginia 24482*



Fire-EMS Standard Operating Guideline

Section:	7 Hazardous Materials
Title:	Personal Protection of Citizens
Date:	August 2008

PERSONAL PROTECTION OF CITIZENS

During hazardous material incidents or other emergencies, consideration for citizen safety must be given. Decision to evacuate may be made by the OIC and/or in conjunction with county officials.

Protection of citizens may be two (2) methods:

1. In-place protection

- a. For some hazardous materials, it is safer to keep citizens inside with doors and windows closed, with ventilation system shut off, rather than to evacuate to another location. The OIC must determine which to use. The Coordinator of Emergency Services shall be notified of all incidents requiring citizens protection.

2. Area evacuation

- a. Recommended - Decision made recommending that all persons leave the designated area.
- b. Mandatory - Decision made requiring all persons leave the designated area.

3. Evacuation Procedures

- a. Emergency area evacuation of immediate vicinities, downwind, downhill and there is no in-place protection, using the ERG for distances or on the advice of a known qualified person.
- b. Notify EOC of areas affected and request the Coordinator of Emergency Services.

- c. Use P. A. systems of emergency vehicles and/or go door to door to advise citizens to evacuate and where to go. Evacuees shall be encouraged to take any medications and pets with them.
- d. Control traffic to affected area, allowing access for emergency vehicles and citizens leaving the area.
- e. Services for those evacuated will be by the direction of the Coordinator of Emergency Services.