

***Remember, share the
information you learn in
this course with
family and friends to
make your home and
community a safer
place to live.***

For more information or copies of this publication, please contact:

**Federal Emergency Management Agency
U.S. Fire Administration
Emergency Management Institute
Independent Study Office
16825 South Seton Avenue
Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727
Phone: (301) 447-1200
<http://training.fema.gov>
FA-271/January 2004**

Household Hazardous Materials

A Guide for Citizens



FEMA

In 2001, 92% of the two million poison exposures reported to poison control centers occurred in the home.

Introduction

This course will introduce you to household hazardous materials and things you can do to protect yourself and your family from injury or death.

Even though you may not realize it, most American families have become dependent upon the daily use of chemical products in our homes. Many of these chemical products require special handling, storage, and disposal because they can be hazardous to our health and environment.



The danger from a chemical product depends greatly on the individuals using it. Chemicals are safe to use when people read the directions and use them correctly.

This course is completely Web-based and contains interactive activities. CD's also are available by request.

You can take the course at your own pace from the comfort of your own home. It will take 1 to 3 hours to complete all the units and take the final exam.

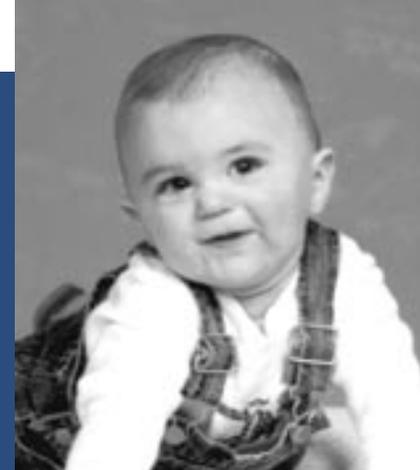


What will you learn?

In the first unit you will learn about basic chemical and physical properties, the ways chemicals enter your body, and the effects chemicals have on your body.

In the second and third units you will learn about cleaning products, lead, mercury, gasoline, compressed gases, carbon monoxide, medical supplies, chlorine, pesticides, and much, much more.

The last two units cover labels, personal protective equipment, proper disposal methods, preventive measures to take before natural disasters occur, and less toxic alternatives.



How to enroll

To enroll in the course go to the U.S. Fire Administration's Web site at www.usfa.fema.gov and click on "For the Fire Service/Virtual Campus." Log on and select "IS-55" from the course catalog to complete the course online. A certificate will be issued when you pass the final exam with a score of 75 percent or better.

