



CITY OF BELFAST

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Notice: Penobscot McCrum Ammonia Siren is now fully operational

Here is what that means for you

November 1, 2016

Please keep this document

As part of a public safety upgrade the Penobscot McCrum Company has installed a siren that is designed to warn the public should there ever be an ammonia leak at the plant. There has never been a leak that caused an injury at the plant. The Company has added a lot of safety improvements and the City has increased its emergency response training and is working with the Company to insure public safety.

This is a loud siren and it can be heard as far away as 2 miles. The real emergency tone is a wail that goes back and forth between high and low tones. If you hear this siren you should "Shelter In Place" until otherwise notified. Information on what it means to "shelter in place" attached to this Memo.

Public information on Hazard Awareness : **Anhydrous Ammonia**

What is it?

It is a gas used as a refrigerant at a large number of food processing facilities and facilities that need cold temperatures. In Belfast it is used by Penobscot McCrum at locations on both Pierce and Front Streets, and on Route 3 at Midcoast Frozen Foods on Northport Avenue.

Is it hazardous? Answer yes. Why?

Is very corrosive and exposure in close proximity to the release may result in chemical type burns to skin eyes and lungs. It has a high affinity for water and migrates to moist areas like eyes, nose, mouth, throat and moist skin.

If is released it will rapidly absorb moisture from the air and form a dense visible white cloud. This dense cloud tends to travel along the ground on a cool day

If there is no visible cloud you can still detect an ammonia release by its pungent odor when it is present in concentrations of 5 to 50 parts per million (ppm). Exposure between 5 to 50 ppm can cause headaches, loss of sense of smell, nausea and vomiting. Concentrations over 50 ppm can result in irritation to the nose, mouth, throat, and cause coughing and wheezing. Concentrations of 300 to 500 ppm are immediately dangerous to life.

Ammonia is also flammable and can be explosive at the right concentrations which is more likely to happen when it is released in a confined space such as inside a building.

Are we in danger? We have no reason to believe that any facility in Belfast is in imminent danger of an accidental release of ammonia. We have not had a public emergency related to ammonia in Belfast in over 7 decades of use.

All emergency sirens have to be tested on a schedule to make sure they are fully functional. Here is the schedule with dates and times for the next year. A test is not an emergency so we want you to anticipate it and not be alarmed by it.

3. Testing Dates/Times: All tests will be conducted at 1:00pm (1300).

<u>Day / Month / Year</u>	<u>Test Sound</u>
19 October 2016	Long Steady Alert
16 November 2016	Long Steady Alert and Modulating Wail
21 December 2016	Long Steady Alert
18 January 2017	Long Steady Alert
15 February 2017	Long Steady Alert and Modulating Wail
15 March 2017	Long Steady Alert
19 April 2017	Long Steady Alert
17 May 2017	Long Steady Alert and Modulating Wail
21 June 2017	Long Steady Alert
19 July 2017	Long Steady Alert
16 August 2017	Long Steady Alert and Modulating Wail
20 September 2017	Long Wail

What should you do if you have any reason to suspect an ammonia release?

1. Call 911. Once the Siren sounds it is no longer necessary to call 911 unless caller needs medical attention.
2. **Shelter in Place in your home or apartment.** This means: Move or stay indoors. Close all windows and doors. Turn off fans, heating and air-conditioning. Go to an interior room or room with the fewest doors and

windows. Stay there and tune in to local TV or radio stations for further information. Keep your pets their food and water and your telephone with you.

3. **If there is any need to evacuate the area then we will notify you** and direct you to go to a certain place. Otherwise, stay where you are and wait for an all clear announcement.

How will I know when the emergency is over?

1. **The Plant has ordered a device that will allow a person to actually speak over the alarm system to tell all of us that the emergency is over and you can resume your normal activity.**
2. **The County Emergency Management Office can get a message out on the Emergency Alert System on TV and Radio to tell everyone to stand down as the emergency is over.**

On Saturday October 8, 2016 the City of Belfast, The County Emergency Management Office, the Penobscot McCrum Company, State agencies and other emergency response personnel conducted a pretend community disaster drill at the Penobscot McCrum Plant to fine tune our ability to respond to an emergency should we ever have to. Training is the best way to stay prepared.

We are attaching some general rules for Staying in Place which are used for all kinds of emergencies. We urge you to keep this letter and this "Staying in Place" information sheet available for ready reference.

Thank you for reading this and for working to protect the whole community by making yourself and your friends and neighbors aware of this important information.

Please remember that we will be testing the Siren at 1:00 pm on the third Wednesday of every Month! Thanks Again.

Fire Chief Jim Richards 338-3362

Police Chief Mike McFadden 338-2420

City Manager Joe Slocum 338-3370 ext 10



Shelter-In-Place



In Case of an Emergency

What to do when there is a Chemical Release

Actions to Take

1. Go or stay Indoors.
2. Close all doors and windows.
3. Turn off any device that exchanges air with the outdoors (furnace, exhaust fans, air conditioners, vents, dampers, clothes dryers, etc.).
4. Stay in an interior room with as few windows and doors as possible.
5. Try to account for all members of your home or business.
6. If possible, place a wet towel at the bottom of the door to your safe room.
7. Listen to radio, TV or an online device for further instructions.
8. Perform first aid as necessary.

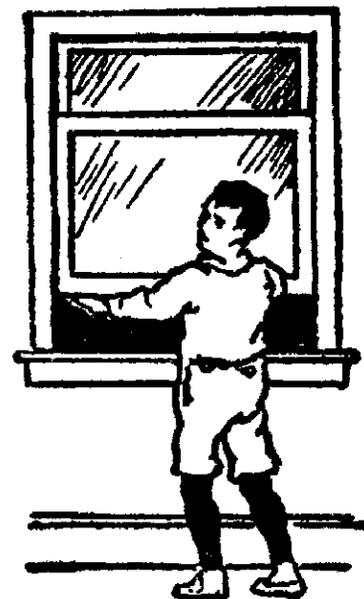
Actions NOT to Take

1. Do not call 911 for information. Only call if you have an actual emergency.
2. Do not evacuate or travel, unless told to do so by authorities.
3. Do not go get children at school. If the school is in the hazard zone, they will be sheltering also.
4. Do not make telephone calls—this may tie up the phone lines.



SHELTER IN PLACE

An accident may cause a hazardous material to enter the air. Unless the material is flammable, emergency responders advise you to stay indoors. Do not evacuate into the contaminated air.



Shelter-In-Place Kit

We suggest you have the following items on hand, available should you need to Shelter-In-Place:

- A battery operated radio, with spare batteries
- Bottled Water and non-perishable snacks
- Flashlight with spare batteries
- A towel for sealing the bottom of door
- First Aid Kit
- Telephone
- Games or books to occupy children
- Pet food
- Sanitary hand wipes
- Duct Tape (to seal windows or doors, as needed)

Good Ideas

- Do not go outdoors!
- Do not travel out into the toxic environment.
- Know more about the hazards that are located in your neighborhood.
- Learn CPR and First Aid.
- Make sure your Family knows what to do.

For More Information

Waldo County Emergency Management Agency

4 Public Safety Way, Belfast, Maine 04915

Phone: (207) 338-3870

E-Mail: emadirector@waldocountyme.gov

Website: www.waldocountyme.gov/ema/

Nixle Alert Signup: www.nixle.com

Are You Prepared Waldo?

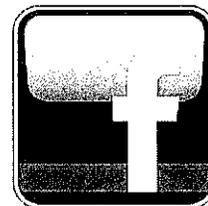
Anything can happen at anytime. Are you prepared to "weather" the storm.

- Power Outages
- Flooding
- Severe Winter Storms
- Hurricanes
- Hazardous Materials
- Pandemic Flu
- Forest Fires
- Active Shooter
- Cyber Incident

Be Informed.
Make a Plan.
Get Ready

Call 211 for Shelter Info
& Assistance

Call 911 for Actual
Emergencies



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