

## Section 7: Evacuation Planning

EPCRA §10003(c)(7) reads:

*Evacuation plans, including provisions for a precautionary evacuation and alternative traffic routes.*

General evacuation plans exist in many communities. They are often adequate for known natural disasters (such as floods and tornados). These plans vary from area to area and are usually the responsibility of the local Fire and Police Departments or ESDA's. The plans are generally designed for the hazards and facilities that exist within their municipality.

In the event of a Hazardous Materials incident, emergency responders may advise the community to take protective action. Protective action may include precautionary evacuation or 'shelter-in-place'.

During a hazardous materials incident, it is the responsibility of the Incident Commander or the unified commander to assess the situation and decide on what protective action to take. In Illinois, the Incident Commander is usually the ranking fire department official on-scene. The Incident Commander would notify the police or the mayor in order to initiate the order for evacuation. The evacuation is then directed by the Incident Commander and usually implemented by the police department.