

NEW YORK STATE
OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS GUIDANCE SHEET

Read this guidance sheet carefully *before signing* the Environmental Hazards Statement. The Statement will ask you a question concerning potential environmental/health hazards on or near the location at which you will provide child care. You will be asked to answer yes or no and sign the Statement. ***The information on this guidance sheet will help you answer the question accurately.***

All day care applicants and providers are responsible for providing a site which is free from any health risk posed by an environmental/ health hazard. Children in care need to be in the safest place possible.

What is an Environmental Hazard?

Environmental hazards are conditions that expose persons to dangerous substances, which can cause them increased risk of illness or injury. These hazards can be the result of chemicals used or stored at a location or a facility. The facility may be currently operating, or may even be closed. Environmental hazards also happen as a result of an accident or emergency event. Some environmental hazards are ongoing while others may have been corrected.

Exposure to harmful substances may increase the risk of illness or injury to a person now or in the future. The amount of harm caused to a person living at or near a hazard depends upon the length of time and/or the type of contact a person has with the hazard. Children can be more sensitive to environmental hazards due to their small size and developing bodies.

Path and Route of Exposure

Path

It is important to understand that harmful substances can affect you even if they are miles from your property. Harmful substances can and do move. Some of the ways they move are through the air, soil or underground water. The way a harmful substance moves from its original site to surrounding areas is known as the “*path of exposure*”. This is a term you may hear in researching a hazard around your property. If you are reporting an environmental hazard and are told about a path of exposure you will need to include the information on part I of the Environmental Information Form.

Route

The term “route of exposure” refers to how people come into contact with the hazard or how it enters the body. Examples are:

- absorption through the skin,
- inhalation or breathing; and
- ingestion or eating

The path of exposure to the day care and the route of exposure need to be evaluated to determine if there are any dangers that need to be resolved.

Common Sources of Environmental Hazards That May Need Evaluation

- **Lead-based Paint**

Old peeling or chipping lead-based paint, lead dust and soil with lead in it can cause a risk of serious health problems, especially to small children. Lead-based paint may be found in buildings built before 1978 (1960 in New York City). The Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) recommends that all child care program sites constructed in whole or in part before 1978 (1960 in New York City) be assessed for lead hazards.

- **Radon**

Radon is a natural gas sometimes found in indoor air. If your town or city is listed as a zone 1 radon site (list provided) and your home or building has not already been tested, you must complete testing and resolve any identified problems before registration/licensing is completed. If your home or building has already been tested for radon levels, additional testing may not be necessary. An Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) representative will work with you to determine if additional testing is required.

- **Gas Stations**

Gas Stations that have had a recent oil or gasoline spill. (Gasoline stations are NOT generally an environmental hazard. Gas Stations should be considered environmental hazards only if you have been informed that the gasoline station has had a spill, has underground corroded tanks or a tank leak.)

- **Additional sources for hazards:**

Dry cleaners, nail salons, vehicle repair shops or garages, paint shops, metal work and forging shops, chemical or pesticide storage warehouses, power plants, manufacturing plants, and incinerators. The hazardous chemicals that may be present at these sites are: perchloroethylene, methyl, methacrylate, petrochemicals, volatile organic compounds, PCB, oils, solvents, glycol, and/or hydrocarbons.

Further hazards include:

Hazardous waste sites, municipal landfills, junkyards, superfund sites (including brownfields, voluntary cleanup program sites, and state and federal superfund sites). The harmful substances that may be at these sites are: toxins, volatile organics metals and/or leachate.

In addition to the list of examples above, there may be other environmental hazards that can cause harm or injury. If you have a concern about a specific situation, refer to the hazards listed on the Environmental Hazards Primary Contacts chart and call the agency listed for help. You may also contact the Bureau of Early Childhood Services in your area of the state for further assistance. Regional office phone numbers are found under Resource and Agency Oversight listing at our website:

www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/beccs.

Use the information on this Guidance Sheet as a resource to answer any question on The Environmental Statement.

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS PRIMARY CONTACTS

◆◆ Call agencies in this order, STOP when information is found ◆◆

HAZARD GROUPS	CONTAMINANT(S)	AGENCY AND CONTACT NUMBERS (See Environmental Hazard Information Form –Part II)
HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES		
superfund, air strippers, foundries, volunteer cleanup sites, brownfields	toxics, volatile organics, metals	NYSDEC Regional Office.....See phone numbers on reverse side NYSDEC Division of Env. Remediation.....(518) 402-9543 NYSDOH Bureau of Env. Exp. Investigation....(800) 458- 1158 extension 27850 Local Fire DepartmentSee local listing Local Building Department.....See local listing NYSDEC haz. waste site database..... http://www.dec.state.ny.us/apps/derfoil/index.cfm
Landfills	Leachate	NYSDEC Division of Solid Waste.....(518) 402-8678
INDUSTRIAL/COMMERCIAL DISCHARGES		
cement plants, dry cleaners, emissions-plants, bldgs, fumes, commercial gas station refueling, paint shops, photo lab, print shops, vehicle repair,	dust, perchloroethylene, gases, volatile organic compounds, petrochemicals,	NYSDEC Regional Office.....See phone numbers on reverse side. NYSDEC Division of Air Resources.....(518) 402-8403 Local Health Department.....See local listing Local Fire Department.....See local listing Local Building Department.....See local listing
Crematories, nail salons	smoke , methyl methacrylate	NYS Dept. of State Div. of Cemeteries.....(518) 474-6226 NYS Dept. of State Licensing.....(518) 474-4429
SPILLS		
Gas stations, storage tanks, electrical switchyards, junkyards,	Petroleum hydrocarbons , PCB oils, solvents, glycol,	NYSDEC Regional Office.....See phone numbers on reverse side NYSDEC Division of Env. Remediation(518) 402-9543 Local Health Department.....See local listing Local Fire Department.....See local listing Local Building Department.....See local listing NYSDEC Spills database..... http://www.dec.state.ny.us/apps/derfoil/index.cfm
RADIATION		
Radon** (Refer to Radon Zone 1 following pages for your area)	Radon	NYSDOH Bureau of Environmental Radiation Protection – See list of Zone 1 sites following.....(800) 458-1158 extension 27556 or (518) 402-7556
Nuclear reactor / storage	spent fuel, radioactive Waste	NYSDOH Bureau of Environmental Radiation Protection.....800-458-1158 extension 27550

(2 sided information sheet)

HAZARD	CONTAMINANTS	AGENCY AND CONTACT NUMBERS
LOCALIZED HAZARDS ON SITE OR ADJACENT PROPERTY		
Building Toxins- if present and assessed a danger, needs immediate removal	Carbon Monoxide, Asbestos,	NYSDOH Center for Environmental Health.....800-458-1158
Deteriorating Paint	Lead	Local health department.....refer to phone book for local health department In NYC, call 311 NYSDOH Center for Environmental Health.....NYSDOH: 800-458-1158, ext 27600.
Building Leaks	Fungi, bioaerosols, mycotoxins, mold	NYSDOH- Bureau of Toxic Substance Assessment.....518-402-7810
Chemicals Must be out of reach of children and used when children are not on the property; the exception to using cleaning products with caution during program or ventilation alleviates chemical danger	Cleaning products, Paint Products, Poisons, Pool Supplies, Funeral Homes, Formaldehyde, Hobbies: using glue, wood working, taxidermy or any other activity using exposed chemicals.	N/A Read labels- if concerned.....Contact Registrar or Licensor

NYSDEC – New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

NYSDOH – New York State Department of Health***NYSDEC - Regional Offices**

[Region 1](#) Suffolk and Nassau counties (631) 444-0204

[Region 2](#) Manhattan, Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn and Staten Island (718) 482-4900

[Region 3](#) Sullivan, Ulster, Orange, Dutchess, Putnam, Rockland and Westchester counties (845) 256-3000

[Region 4](#) Montgomery, Otsego, Delaware, Schoharie, Schenectady, Albany, Greene, Rensselaer and Columbia counties (518) 357-2234

[Region 5](#) Franklin, Clinton, Essex, Hamilton, Warren, Fulton, Saratoga and Washington counties (518) 897-1200

[Region 6](#) Jefferson, St. Lawrence, Lewis, Oneida and Herkimer counties (315) 785-2239

[Region 7](#) Oswego, Cayuga, Onondaga, Madison, Tompkins, Cortland, Chenango, Tioga and Broome counties (315) 426-7400

[Region 8](#) Orleans, Monroe, Wayne, Genesee, Livingston, Ontario, Yates, Seneca, Steuben, Schuyler and Chemung counties (585) 226-2466

[Region 9](#) Niagara, Erie, Wyoming, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany counties (716) 851-7000

****NYSDOH RADON ZONE 1 Towns/Villages/Cities:**

Albany: Berne, Coeymans, Cohoes, Green island, Guiderland, Knox, New Scotland, Watervliet, Westerlo
Allegany: Alfred, Allen, Alma, Almond, Amity, Andover, Angelica, Belfast, Bolivar, Burns, Centerville, Clarksville, Cuba, Friendship, Hume, Independence, Scio, Ward, Wellsville, Willing
Broome: Barker, Binghamton, Chenango, Colesville, Conklin, Dickinson, Fenton, Kirkwood, Lisle, Sanford, Triangle, Union, Vestal, Windsor
Cattaraugus: Allegany, Ashford, Coldspring, Dayton, E.Otto, Ellicottville, Farmersville, Franklinville, Freedom, Great Valley, Hinsdale, Humphrey, Ischua, Leon, Little Valley, Lyndon, Machias, Mansfield, New Albion, Olean, Otto, Perrysburg, Persia, Portville, Randolph, Salamanca, So. Valley, Yorkshire
Cayuga: Auburn, Brutus, Cato,, Fleming, Genoa, Locke, Mentz, Montezuma, Moravia, Niles, Owasco, Sempronius, Sennett, Springport, Summerhill, Throop
Chautauqua: Busti, Carroll, Charlotte, Cherry Creek, Clymer, Ellery, Ellicott, Ellington, Gerry, Hanover, Jamestown, Kiantone, Mina, Poland, Pomfret, Portland, Ripley, Sheridan, Sherman, Stockton, Villenova, Westfield
Chemung: Ashland, Big Flats, Catlin, Chemung, Elmira, Erin, Horseheads, Southport, Van Etten, Veteran
Chenango: Afton, Bainbridge, Columbus, Coventry, Greene, Guilford, Lincklaen, McDonough, New Berlin, No.Norwich, Norwich, Otselic, Oxford, Pitcher, Plymouth, Sherburne, Smithville, Smyrna
Clinton: Black Brook
Columbia: Ancram, Austerlitz, Canaan, Chatham, Claverack, Clearmont, Copake, Gallatin, Germantown, Ghent, Hillsdale, Kinderhook, Livingston, New Lebanon, Stuyvesant, Taghkanic
Cortland: Cincinnatus, Cortland, Cortlandville, Cuyler, Freetown, Harford, Homer, Lapeer, Marathon, Preble, Scott, Solon, Taylor, Truxton, Virgil, Willet
Delaware: Andes, Bovina, Colchester, Davenport, Delhi, Deposit, Franklin, Hamden, Hancock, Kortright, Masonville, Meredith, Middletown, Roxbury, Sidney, Stanford, Tompkins, Walton
Dutches: Amenia, Beacon, Beekman, Clinton, Dover, E.Fishkill, Fishkill, Hyde Park, LaGrange, Milan, Northeast, Pawling, Pine Plains, Pleasant, Poughkeepsie, Red Hook, Rhinebeck, Stanford, Union Vale, Wappinger, Washington
Erie: Aurora, Boston, Brant, Clarence, Colden, Collins, Concord, Eden, Elma, Evans, Hamburg, Holland, Marilla, Newstead, No. Collins, Orchard Park, Sardinia, Wales
Essex: Ticonderoga,
Franklin: Bombay, Waverly, Westville
Fulton: Mayfield, Oppenheim
Genesee: Alabama, Alexander, Batavia, Bergen, Bethany, Byron, Darien, LeRoy, Oakfiled, Pavilion, Pembroke, Stafford
Greene: Ashland, Athens, Cairo, Catskill, Durham, Greenville, Halcott, Hunter, Lexington, New Baltimore
Hamilton: Long Lake
Herkimer: Columbia, Danube, Fairfield, Frankfort, German Flatts, Herkimer, Litchfield, Little Falls, Russia, Schuyler, Webb, Winfield
Jefferson: Adams, Alexandria, Antwerp, Champion, Clayton, Ellisburg, Hounsfield, Le Ray, Orleans, Pamela, Rodman, Rutland, Theresa
Lewis: Croghan, Greig, Leyden, Martinsburg, New Bremen, Turin, W. Turin
Livingston: Avon, Caledonia, Conesus, Geneseo, Groveland, Leicester, Lima, Livonia, Mt. Morris, No. Dansville, Nunda, Ossian, Portage, Sparta, Springwater, York
Madison: Brookfield, Cazenovia, Deruyter, Eaton, Fenner, Georgetown, Hamilton, Lebanon, Lenox, Lincoln, Madison, Nelson, Oneida, Smithfield, Stockbridge, Sullivan
Monroe: Mendon, Riga, Rush, Wheatland
Montgomery: Canajoharie, Florida, Glen, Minden, Mohawk, Palatine, St. Johnsville
Niagara: Hartland

Oneida: Augusta, Ava, Bridgewater, Camden, Floyd, Kirkland, Lee, Marcy, Marshall, New Hartford, Paris, Remsen, Rome, Sangerfield, Steuben, Trenton, Utica, Verona, Western, Westmoreland, Whitestown
Onondaga: Camillus, DeWitt, Elbridge, Fabius, Geddes, Layfayette, Lysander, Manlius, Marcellus, Onondaga, Otisco, Pompey, Skaneateles, Spafford, Syracuse, Tully
Ontario: Bristol, Canadice, E. Bloomfield, Farmington, Gorham, Hopewell, Manchester, Naples, Phelps, Richmond, Seneca, So. Bristol, Victor, W. Bloomfield
Orange: Blooming Gr., Chester, Cornwall, Crawford, Deer Park, Goshen, Greenville, Hamptonburgh, Highlands, Middletown, Minisink, Monroe, Montgomery, Mt. Hope, New Windsor, Newburgh, Port Jervis, Tuxedo, Wallkill, Warwick, Wawayanda, Woodbury
Orleans: Barre, Carlton, Clarendon, Gaines, Kendall, Shelby, Yates
Oswego: New Haven, Orwell, Richland, Sandy Creek, Scriba
Otsego: Burlington, Butternuts, Cherry Valley, Decatur, Edmeston, Exeter, Hartwick, Laurens, Maryland, Middlefield, Milford, Morris, New Lisbon, Oneonta, Otego, Otsego, Pittsfield, Springfield, Unadilla, Westford, Worcester
Putman: Carmel, Kent, Philpstown, Putnam Valley
Rensselaer: Berlin, Brunswick, E. Greenbush, Grafton, Hoosick, Nassau, No. Greenbush, Petersburg, Pittstown, Poestenkill, Rensselaer, Sand Lake, Schaghticoke, Schodack, Stephentown, Troy
Rockland: Stony Point
Saratoga: Ballston, Charlton, Corinth, Day, Galway, Greenfield, Hadley, Halfmoon, Malta, Mechanicville, Northumberland, Providence, Saratoga, Saratoga Springs, Stillwater, Waterford
Schenectady: Duanesburgh, Glenville, Rotterdam, Schenectady
Schoharie: Blenheim, Cobleskill, Fulton, Gilboa, Jefferson, Middleburgh, Richmondville, Schoharie, Seward, Sharon, Wright
Schuyler: Catharine, Dix, Hector, Montour, Orange, Reading
Seneca: Covert, Junius, Ovid, Romulus
St. Lawrence: Clifton, De Kalb, Edwards, Hammond, Lisbon, Madrid, Morristown, Ogdensburgh, Oswegathie, Parishville, Pierrepont
Steuben: Addison, Avoca, Bath, Bradford, Campbell, Canisteo, Caton, Cohocton, Corning, Dansville, Erwin, Fremont, Greenwood, Hartsville, Hornby, Hornell, Hornellsville, Howard, Lindley, Prattsburgh, Pulteney, Rathbone, Thurston, Troupsburgh, Tuscarora, Urbana, W. Union, Wayland, Wayne, Wheeler, Woodhill
Sullivan: Bethel, Callicoon, Delaware, Fallsburgh, Fremont, Liberty, Mamakating, Rockland,
Tioga: Barton, Berkshire, Candor, Newark Valley, Nichols, Owego, Richford, Spencer, Tioga
Tompkins: Caroline, Danby, Dryden, Enfield, Groton, Ithaca, Lansing, Newfield, Ulysses
Ulster: Denning, Esopus, Gardiner, Hardenburgh, Hurley, Kingston, Lloyd, Marbletown, Marlborough, New Paltz, Olive, Plattekil, Rochester, Rosendale, Saugerties, Shandaken, Shawangunk, Wawarsing, Woodstock,
Warren: Bolton, Lake George, Lake Luzerne, Stony Creek
Washington: Argyle, Cambridge, Dresden, Easton, Fort Edward, Granville, Greenwich, Hampton, Herbon, Jackson, Salem, White Creek, Whitehall
Wayne: Arcadia, Galen, Lyons, Macedon, Marion, Newark, Palmyra, Rose
Westchester: Cortlandt, Harrison, Lewisboro, Momaroneck, Mt. Vernon, No. Castle, No. Salem, Peekskill, Pound Ridge, Somers
Wyoming: Arade, Attica, Bennington, Castile, Covington, Eagle, Gainsville, Java, Middlebury, Perry, Pike, Sheldon, Warsaw
Yates: Barrington, Benton, Italy, Jerusalem, Middlesex, Milo, Potter, Starkey, Torrey