

# News

Macomb County  
Office of Public Affairs



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## **LOCAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE EXERCISE TO TEST COUNTY PREPAREDNESS**

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. – Emergency management officials from Macomb County and nine local communities will conduct a training exercise Oct. 27 to test the area's response to a simulated terrorist attack.

The exercise will take place from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 27, at the Visteon Corp. plant near 23 Mile and Mound roads in Shelby Township.

This exercise, the second in the past two months to test the area's emergency response to a terrorist attack, aims to further improve the response capabilities and readiness to deal with a complex, changing situation.

It is designed to evaluate hazardous material decontamination of victims and equipment, communications, incident and unified command structure, and emergency response teams and SWAT response to an attack.

The scenario is set up to test three situations that first responders might encounter:

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- Hazardous materials teams will meet 60 to 90 factory workers who have been exposed to a chemical agent and need decontamination. There also will be some vehicles that require decontamination.
- Fire and police officials will be called to a simulated diesel fuel spill caused by an overturned railroad car on the Visteon property. Soon after they arrive on the scene, a group posing as terrorists will ambush them and then conduct a mock attack with simulated guns and chemical weapons.
- Police and fire officials will call in SWAT teams to rescue them. The SWAT teams will then attempt to search out and destroy the “terrorists” so medical and decontamination units can do their job.

Other scenarios and situations will be surprises to the participants.

This exercise follows a drill Sept. 24-30 at Selfridge Air National Guard base that was aimed at testing the response capabilities of local governments, hospitals and the military to a mass casualty situation.

Participants in the October exercise will include officials from the Macomb County Office of Emergency Management; Macomb County Sheriff’s Department; three county Hazardous Materials Teams, and representatives from the fire and police departments of Shelby Township, Utica, Sterling Heights, Clinton Township, Warren, Roseville, Eastpointe, Chesterfield Township, and St. Clair Shores.

Also participating will be the Shelby Township Emergency Operations Center, and several Utica Community Schools, which will take advantage of the scenario to do an in-place shelter drill, which is similar to a tornado drill.

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The public should be aware that a large volume of emergency vehicles will be responding in the Shelby Township area during the day and there may be large volumes of smoke and explosions seen and heard during the exercise. Signs will be posted at the site informing passers-by that an exercise is in progress.

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**Editors Note: News media will be allowed access to the vehicle staging area, and the decontamination and incident command areas, which will be located at the southern part of the Visteon plant parking lot off Mound Road. The only access will be through the plant's southern-most entrance. News media wishing to attend should make arrangements in advance, and plan on arriving at the site between 8 and 8:30 a.m. The event will end at 11:30 a.m. Media will not have access to the area of the Visteon property where the SWAT teams will be operating.**

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