WORST-CASE SCENARIO®

HOW TO DRIVE THROUGH A CHEMICAL SPILL

1 **Extinguish any cigarettes.**
Many hazardous chemicals are highly combustible. If you are smoking, put the cigarette out completely in your ashtray. Make sure all embers are fully extinguished. Do not throw a lit cigarette out the window.

2 **Turn off the air circulation systems.**
Make sure the heat, air-conditioning, and all blower fans are off and vents are closed. These systems will bring contaminated outside air into the car.

3 **Shut the windows.**
Make sure all windows (and the sunroof, if you have one) are fully closed.

4 **Cover your mouth.**
Tie a handkerchief, cloth napkin, or bandanna around your head so the fabric covers your nose and mouth. Do not wet the fabric beforehand: Some gases and vapors are attracted to water and may combine with it to form dangerous and/or unstable compounds.

5 **Monitor your speed.**
In most cases, you should drive though chemical hazards at a moderate speed. However, when driving through a dry chemical spill, move extremely slowly (less than 15 mph) to avoid kicking up plumes of toxic dust.

6 **Drive uphill and upwind of the spill site.**
Once through the spill, continue driving away from it. Many dangerous gases are heavier than air and will tend to settle in low-lying areas. Get to a higher elevation immediately.

7 **Abandon your car.**
When you are uphill and upwind of the spill, at least half a mile away, and in an unpopulated and low-traffic area, leave your car, which is now contaminated. Use caution when getting out, and do not touch any external surface.

8 **Run.**
Proceed uphill and upwind of your car as quickly as possible. Do not crawl.

9 **Inform authorities that your vehicle and possibly your person are contaminated.**

Be Aware

- It is always safer to turn around and drive away from a spill rather than through it. Do not drive through a spill unless you are instructed to do so, or have no other choice.
- HEPA and other microfilters used in the air circulation systems of some cars are not effective protection from toxic substances.