

Voice over text animation Tradeoff

Area development may involve awareness areas.

These awareness areas make visible where hazards may be expected due to an accident with hazardous substances.

For example, when making plans for the environment, authorities can already limit or prevent the consequences of an incident involving hazardous substances at an early stage.

Not every function belongs in an awareness area. This does not mean that activities are already prohibited in advance, but it means that safety must be taken into account when making decisions.

If an initiative comes up, the municipality first checks whether the initiative fits within the preconditions of the environmental plan. The municipality then discusses the possible consequences with advisers such as the safety region and environmental agency.

Which incident scenarios are possible, and how likely are they? Under what conditions do we think building in an awareness area is safe enough?

The municipality can also consider to take additional protective measures, such as a protective earth wall or protect buildings with additional construction regulations.

The outcome may also be that this location is not suitable for this initiative.

In some cases, communicating about the consequences is sufficient. For example, local residents know that they must close the windows in the event of a fire or toxic cloud. And the escape routes are known.

Also in case that the presence of large groups of people is to be expected in the open air, such as at an open-air swimming pool or event site, it may be wise to take measures. Such measures may be for example additional facilities such as shelters.

Due to awareness areas, safety comes up early on the table. This way you can start discuss a safe design of your environment from the first design.

Read the environmental safety manual at environsafety.rivm.nl