



Shelter-in-Place

Shelter-in-Place is not the same as “staying inside” a building. When you shelter-in-place you will seal the room with plastic sheeting and duct tape.

Shelter-in-Place is specifically used when there is a chemical, biological, or radiological threat. If a chemical agent attack happens, authorities will instruct people to either shelter where they are and seal the premises (*shelter-in-place*) or evacuate immediately.

Generally shelter where you are unless directed otherwise by response officials. Typically, events of this type do not last long. The hazardous agents are moved about by air and wind, which is constantly circulating.

It is only natural to want to be with your loved ones, but it is safer to stay where you are. Do not attempt to get your children from school or daycare.

Before an incident:

To properly shelter-in-place you will need to prepare a **Safe Room** in advance. You will probably need to stay inside several hours, but not several days, so choose a room and stock supplies to get you through the time. A master bedroom with an attached bathroom is ideal to give you access to the toilet and running water.

The doors and windows of that room will need to be sealed with plastic sheeting and tape and dampened towels or cloths will be placed under the doors. In extreme cases of contamination, breathing through a wet cloth provides additional protection.

Preparing your Safe Room:

- Purchase plastic sheeting and cloth tape or duct tape.
- Pre-cut the plastic to fit all windows, vents, and doors of this room, and label each piece.
- Create a box or container to hold the pre-cut plastic, tape, and these additional supplies: a battery-powered AM / FM radio (power may be out), extra batteries, some snack foods, some water, and some towels and blankets (if this is another room than the bedroom). Store this box in your safe room.

During an incident:

1. Go inside, stay inside.



2. Close all windows and doors.



3. Turn off ventilation systems (*heating, air-conditioning, fireplace dampers, etc.*)



4. Go into your Safe Room (*seal windows, vents, doors*)

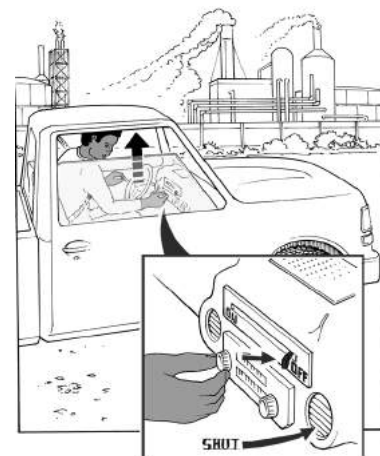


5. Listen to your radio; stay in the room until authorities tell you it is safe to come out.



If in a vehicle:

- Tightly roll up all windows.
- Shut off the motor to avoid drawing outside air in through the engine.
- Turn off all heating and cooling and close all vents.
- Breathe through a dampened cloth.
- Turn on the radio and listen for instructions.



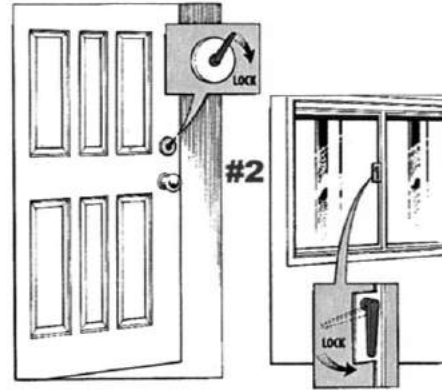
WASHINGTON MILITARY DEPARTMENT
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Shelter-in-Place Instructions

1. Go inside immediately.

- Remember your pets.

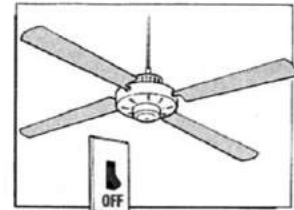
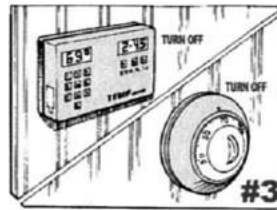


2. Tightly lock all doors & windows.

- The more immediately you do this - and the more tightly - the less likely it will be that contaminants will get inside.

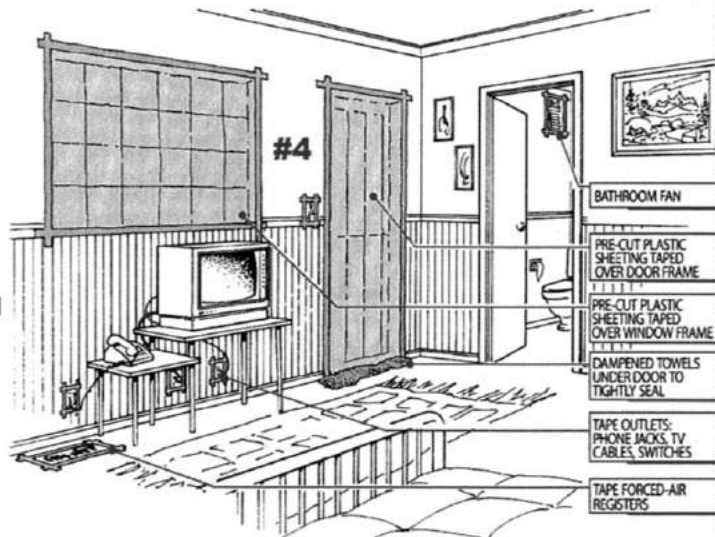
3. Shut off fans & devices that circulate air throughout your home.

- Shut off fans.
- Adjust the thermostat of furnaces & air conditioners to shut off and stay off.
- Tightly close woodstove & fireplace dampers.
- If a fire is lit, put it out, close the damper, shut the vents and doors.



4. Go into your pre-selected room & seal it tightly.

- Tape plastic sheeting over windows, doors, vents, bathroom fans, electrical outlets, phone jacks, and TV & cable outlets. Remember - you are creating a tightly sealed room, so freely use the tape.
- Place dampened towels under door cracks to tightly seal them.



5. Listen to the radio for instructions.

- Officials will be giving instructions about whether or not to evacuate, and when it is safe to come out.



6. Thoroughly air out your home once the emergency is over.

- Open all your doors and windows. This will allow small particles that may have gotten in to dissipate.

