

SHELTER-IN-PLACE INSTRUCTIONS

CREATING A "SAFE ROOM" IN YOUR HOME

WHY

Your house provides a good first layer barrier against chemical airborne agents. Additional protection is achieved by tightly sealing one room of your home that you have pre-designated and prepared.

WHAT

A safe room is one that easily and quickly can be sealed to protect you from airborne agents. It has some supplies to get you through the few hours you may need to stay inside the room. All doors and windows of that room will be sealed with plastic sheeting and tape. Damp towels will seal cracks under doors.

It's likely you'll have to stay in the room for a few hours, not days. Choose a room on an upper level, if possible. A master bedroom with an attached bathroom is an ideal safe room.

PREPARING A SAFE ROOM

- 1. Choose one room of your home that you can seal tightly.
- 2. Purchase plastic sheeting, scissors and duct tape.
- 3. Pre-cut the plastic to fit all windows, vents and doors of the safe room and label each piece.
- 4. Purchase a box or bin to hold the plastic and tape and these additional supplies: a battery-operated AM/FM radio, extra batteries, snacks and water.
- 5. Store these supplies in your safe room.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 1. Shelter where you are unless otherwise directed by emergency officials.
- 2. Do not attempt to get children at schools or day care. It's likely they will be sheltered-in-place where they are.
- 3. Shelter-in-place events typically don't last long. The hazardous vapors are moved about by air and wind, which is constantly moving.
- 4. In extreme cases, breathing through a wet cloth provides some additional protection.

IN A CAR

- 5. Tightly roll up all windows.
- 6. Turn on the radio and listen to instructions.
- 7. Shut off the engine to avoid drawing outside air into the passenger area.
- 8. Turn off all heating and cooling systems.
- 9. Close all vents.
- 10. Breathe through a dampened cloth.

Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program

Go Inside Immediately

+ Remember your pets

Tightly lock all doors and windows

- + The quicker you do this and the tighter the window seal, the less likely that contaminants will get inside the building.
- + Tape a status sign on an inside window to tell responders that you're inside or have left.

Shut off fans, furnaces, air conditioners and other devices that circulate air throughout your home.

- + Adjust thermostats so that systems stay off
- + Tightly close fireplace and wood stove dampers
- + If a fire is lit, put it out, close the vents and doors.

Go into your pre-selected shelter-in-place room and seal it tightly

- + Tape plastic sheeting over windows, doors, vents, bathroom fans, electrical outlets, phone and cable tv jacks. Pre-cut pieces of plastic sheeting make this task go more quickly.
- + Place dampened towels under door cracks to form a tight seal

Listen to the radio or TV for instructions

 Officials will be giving instructions about possible evacuation and updates on when it is safe to come outdoors.

Thoroughly air out your home or building once authorities announce that the emergency is over

+ Open all your doors and windows. This will allow small amounts of vapor that may have gotten in to leave.

SHELTER-IN-PLACE INSTRUCTIONS

