



SHELTER IN PLACE

IN YOUR HOME

What is it?

Shelter In Place is a safety procedure designed to help protect you during a serious airborne hazardous material emergency. It means taking shelter inside your home, work place, school or other building until the danger has passed.

The goal of Shelter In Place is to prevent contaminated outside air from entering your home or other shelter for the duration of the incident. Incidents usually last a few hours, not days or weeks. There is little danger you will run out of oxygen during this procedure.

You will be notified of a serious hazardous material emergency by one or more of the following methods:

- Television or radio
- NOAA weather radio*
- Outdoor warning sirens
- Door-to-door notification
- Public address systems on vehicles.

*If you are a Hamilton County resident, you can be notified by your weather radio. If your weather radio is programmable, set it to receive civil emergency messages. Make sure it is on at all times.

What do I do?

If you are told to Shelter In Place by local authorities, please take the following safety actions:

- Close and lock all windows and exterior doors.
- Turn off all air conditioners, fans and heating systems, etc. that draw in outside air.
- Close your fireplace damper.
- Get your Disaster Supply Kit and make sure your radio is working.
- Go to an interior room with the fewest windows and doors on the highest story of your home or other shelter. Do NOT go to the basement. Many chemicals are heavier than air and can seep into a basement.
- Bring your pet(s) with you, along with food and water for them.
- Use your phone for emergency purposes only (so you do not prevent essential calls from getting through).
- Use duct tape and plastic sheeting to seal windows, doors, vents, outlets, etc.
- Stay inside this room and listen to your radio or television until local authorities tell you the emergency is over OR you are told to evacuate.
- When local authorities announce the end of the emergency, ventilate your shelter by opening doors and windows. Go outside until it is aired out.

What do I need?

You are encouraged to prepare a Disaster Supply Kit with emergency supplies that will last at least three days. The kit should be stored in a box or duffel bag in the room in which you plan to Shelter In Place.

At a minimum, the kit should contain the following items:

- **Battery-operated radio and extra batteries**
- **NOAA weather radio**
- **Water and ready-to-eat food**
- **First aid kit**
- **Flashlight and extra batteries**
- **Thick plastic sheeting (i.e., plastic drop cloths, window sealing plastic)**
- **Duct tape (i.e., high-quality duct tape or polypropylene tape)**
- **Scissors**
- **Towels**
- **Kitchen items (i.e., non-electric can opener, eating utensils)**
- **Hygiene items (i.e., plastic bucket with tight lid, garbage bags)**
- **Specialty items (i.e., medication, diapers, books, games).**



For more information, please contact the Cincinnati Fire Department at (513) 357-7585.