

There may be a time when an emergency takes place in your community due to an airborne chemical release. The outside air quality may be affected to the point that it isn't safe to be outside. In a case like this it is usually safer to **shelter-in-place** until wind disperses and moves the chemical(s) away.

## NOTIFICATION

If there is an emergency that may be a risk to the public, your Emergency Management Official will notify you by radio, TV or telephone. In Bucks County, emergency officials are trained to activate the Community Alert Network. This is a computerized telephone system that can target specific areas and send messages to over 3000 phones per minute.

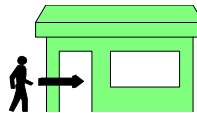
*“There has been a release of chlorine in your area. Please shelter-in-place and turn on your TV or radio. Listen for essential emergency information.”*

For airborne chemical releases the safest immediate action is to **shelter-in-place** while listening for further instructions.

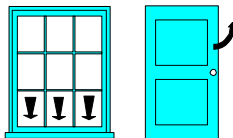
For most releases, there is not enough time for evacuation.

## SHELTER-IN-PLACE

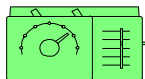
1. **Go inside immediately and turn on radio or TV for emergency information.**



2. **Close all windows and doors.**



3. **Turn off all ventilation systems.**



4. **Once inside, go into and seal a room, if at all possible.**
5. **Continue listening to radio or TV for further instructions.**

## INSTRUCTIONS

Go inside the nearest structure such as a home, school, store or public building. Bring pets inside if practical. If indoors already, stay there! Turn a radio or TV on for emergency information. If you are in a vehicle, close all windows, manual vents and ventilation systems. Turn the radio on for emergency information

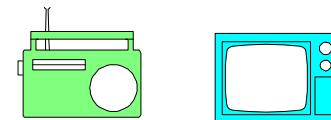
## *Once you're inside a structure:*

Shut all windows, doors, chimneys and fireplace vents- this includes everything that can be closed quickly and easily to prevent the chemical from entering.

Turn off all forced air heating or cooling systems. Turn off stove and bathroom exhaust fans.

Go into a room, preferably with no windows or outside air vents. If possible seal the door, windows, vents, etc., with plastic sheeting and tape, or with wet rags.

Continue listening to a local emergency alert station on the radio or TV. You may be given instructions to evacuate. You will be notified when the emergency is over. (Use a battery-powered radio if the power is off.)



## PRE-PLANNING SHELTER-IN-PLACE

It's important that you have a plan for your home or business for **sheltering-in-place**. Some key steps in this plan are:

1. Know what doors and windows are likely to be open and assign someone to check and close them.
2. Know where the manual vents are and how to close them.
3. Know where forced air heating and cooling controls and power exhaust vents are, and how to turn them off.
4. Know what room you will go into and how to seal it. Have a KIT prepared that includes things like plastic sheeting, duct tape, scissors, towels/rags, etc...
5. Have a radio (preferably two: one electric and one battery-operated) in the room you've identified. Know the emergency alert system station(s) for your area and tape the station numbers onto the side of the radio.
6. For Lower Bucks County the emergency broadcast stations are:

**WBCB      1490 AM**  
**KYW        1060 AM**

If you have an unlisted phone number, you may **not** be included in the CAN system. Please contact your local Emergency Management Coordinator through your township office to add your number to the system!

## Shelter-In-Place

- .. Go indoors **immediately!**
- .. Close all windows and doors.
- .. Turn off all ventilation systems.
- .. Go to an inside room & seal it.
- .. Turn on radio/TV for further instructions.

## Shelter-In-Place Kit

You should gather the following items together in a box to have ready for any emergency:

- plastic sheeting for windows
- duct tape & scissors
- towels/rags for vents & under doors
- drinking water in jugs
- battery-operated radio (with emergency station numbers taped on the side & extra batteries)
- working flashlight with extra batteries
- snacks

# SHELTER - IN - PLACE

EMERGENCY INSTRUCTIONS  
FROM THE

**Bucks County**



**For more information contact:**

**Bucks County Emergency  
Management Agency**

911 Ivyglenn Circle  
Ivyland, PA

**215-340-8700**