

Sheltering In-Place



What is Sheltering In-Place?

Sheltering in-place means protecting the airspace within a building from contaminated air outside. In other words, Sheltering In-Place simply means staying inside the building you are currently in or going inside if you are out doors until the emergency passes. Sheltering in-place is most often your safest option in an emergency situation that is occurring outside.

Emergency Situations that would require you to shelter in-place.

So what is an emergency situation that requires you to shelter in-place. Certain substances may be stored, manufactured, or transported through your area that are extremely hazardous in nature. An emergency situation that would require sheltering in-place is one that would be more harmful for you and your family to go outside and breathe the air than to stay inside where it is safe. Evacuation may take you through a plume of toxic chemicals, leading to serious, long-term health risks or even death. Therefore, sheltering-in place would be a more acceptable alternative which keeps you inside a protected environment.

Butler County has a multitude of hazardous materials that are stored, manufactured, and transported daily in addition to the 9 *extremely* hazardous chemicals that could require you to shelter in place: Cumene, Benzene, Toulene, Phenol, Anhydrous Ammonia, Sodium Phenate, Tetraethyl Lead, Sulfuric Acid, and Chlorine. As well, Butler County has 6 *major* highways and multiple local highways that run through it carrying large quantities of hazardous materials daily.

How do you know if you should shelter in-place?

In the event that there would be a chemical spill or release in your area, local officials may direct to you shelter in-place. If such a chemical or other hazardous material spill would occur, it may do more harm than good to evacuate (leave) your home, therefore, being safer for you and your family to stay or go inside your home and take the necessary precautions. Ways that you may be notified include Reserve 9-1-1 and listening to local radio and television stations.

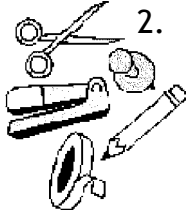
What you should know

- Before disaster strikes you should prepare a sheltering in-place kit
- If you are outdoors, immediately go indoors
- If you cannot find your pets within a minute or two, leave them outside. Do not risk your own safety.
- Close all doors, windows, and fireplace dampers
- Turn off all heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems

- Prepare your room with your kit
- Stay indoors and listen to local radio or television stations for directions

How to choose and prepare a room for sheltering in-place

1. Your ideal room has few windows, is large enough to hold your family and pets and preferably has access to water. A bedroom with an adjoining bath and a restroom may be a good choice.



2. When the room is used for sheltering, the windows must be sealed against any outside air entering. Measure each window opening in the room and then add an additional 6 inches on to the size. Cut plastic sheeting according to the measurements. Label each sheet so you know which window it goes to. Keep several rolls of duct tape with the plastic coverings so you can tape them in place.

3. Follow step 2 except for do it for all your doors and vent coverings.

4. Assemble shelter in-place supplies. You should keep your plastic, tape, towels for under doors, battery powered radios and flashlights, extra batteries, cell phone (if you have one), snack foods, canned juices or other drinks, pet foods and games/books to pass the time in a box underneath the bed where you have easy access to it.



When it comes time to shelter in-place, you should cover all windows, doors, and vents with the plastic sheeting previously cut, anchor in place with duct tape, stay away from the windows, listen to local media, keep a phone with you, do not go outside and make sure you shut off all outside sources of air into your home.

What if you are at school?

Schools should already have in place procedures for sheltering in-place. If you are at school, you should stay there and parents SHOULD NOT come pick you up until everything is deemed safe.

REMEMBER - it's never too Early to prepare. It's better to prepare before disaster strikes then wait until that minute when it does and you do not have the necessary supplies.

For further information or an information brochure contact our office at 1-800-314-3503.