

Here in Utah, we are better prepared than most other states to deal with the unlikely event of a chemical or biological incident. This is due to special resources provided through the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP). Those resources include:

- Extensive hazardous materials training and use of Personal Protective Equipment by first responders
- Mobile and fixed decontamination capabilities
- Specialized training and equipment for hospitals in Salt Lake, Utah, and Tooele Counties, preparing them treat chemical exposed patients
- Planning and training with evacuation seminars and discussion of pertinent emergency management issues

*A major chemical emergency is an accident which releases a hazardous amount of a chemical into the environment. Accidents can happen underground, on railroad tracks or highways and at manufacturing plants. These accidents sometimes result in a fire or explosion, but many times you can not see or smell anything unusual.*

## CHEMICAL & BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS

### What You Need To Know

**For more information contact:**

- Your personal physician.
- Your local health department listed in your telephone directory.
- The Utah Department of Health.
- Utah Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security.



Utah Department of Public Safety  
 Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security  
 1110 State Office Building  
 P.O. Box 141710  
 Salt Lake City, UT 84114-1710  
 Phone: 801.538.3400  
 Fax: 801.538.3770  
<http://deshs.utah.gov>



Utah Department of Public Safety  
 Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security

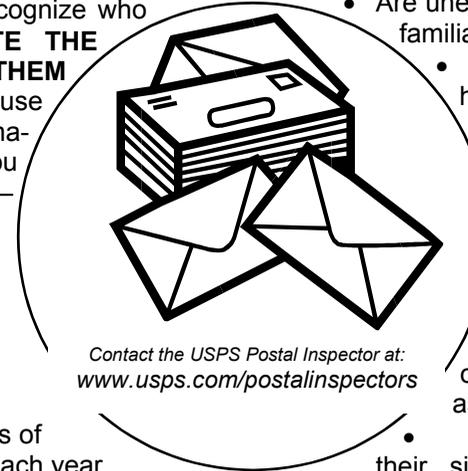
<http://deshs.utah.gov>

**Weapons of Mass Destruction:**

*Any weapon or device that is intended, or has the capability to cause death or serious bodily injury to a significant number of people through the release, dissemination, or impact of toxic poisonous chemicals or their precursors; a disease organism, radiation or radioactivity.*

### Detecting Suspicious Packages or Letters

Use caution when opening personal or business mail—open mail only from known correspondents. If a mail piece appears out of the ordinary or you do not recognize who sent it to you, **INVESTIGATE THE SENDER BY CONTACTING THEM** regarding the mail piece (use return address or call information – 411). Remember – you do not have to open the item – **you can throw it away!**



Contact the USPS Postal Inspector at:  
[www.usps.com/postalinspectors](http://www.usps.com/postalinspectors)

### BIOLOGICAL AGENTS VIA THE MAIL- WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

- There are 208 billion pieces of mail delivered in the U.S. each year.
- 680 million pieces each day.
- There were 178 biological or chemical threats or hoaxes in 1999-2000 in the U.S.
- Most common locations: courthouses, abortion clinics, churches, schools, and post offices.

### MAIL ROOM SECURITY PROCEDURES:

- Identify a single point of contact to open mail.
- If possible, **DO NOT** open mail in area where other personnel are present.
- Have appropriate gloves available for individual use.
- Screen all mail for suspicious packages.

*Anthrax incidents on the east coast in 2001 did not fit many of the characteristics listed above. Be alert and aware of what is around you. The very nature of terrorism suggests that there may be little or no warning. Take precautions and be aware of suspicious or unusual behavior.*

### CHARACTERISTIC OF A SUSPICIOUS LETTER OR PACKAGE:

- Have any unusual powdery substance on the outside (remember, commonly the publishing industry a light coating of cornstarch to the covers and pages of glossy magazines and other printed materials – this is safe).
  - Are unexpected or from someone unfamiliar to you.
  - Have excessive postage, handwritten or poorly typed address, incorrect titles or titles with no name, or misspellings of common words.
  - Are addressed to someone no longer with your organization or are otherwise outdated.
  - Have no return address, or have one that can't be verified as legitimate.
  - Are of unusual weight, given their size, or are lopsided or oddly shaped.
- Have an unusual amount of tape.
- Are marked with restrictive endorsements, such as "Personal" or "Confidential."
- Have strange odors or stains.

**For more history and information on chemical and biological weapons, please go to the following websites:**

[www.nbc.med.org/others/](http://www.nbc.med.org/others/)  
[library.thinkquest.org/216591agents/history](http://library.thinkquest.org/216591agents/history)  
[www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/biologicaandchemicalweapons](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/biologicaandchemicalweapons)

# Sheltering In-Place

One of the basic instructions you may be given in a chemical emergency is to shelter-in-place. This is a precaution aimed to keep you and your family safe while remaining in your home. If you are told to shelter-in-place, take your children and pets indoors immediately and follow the procedures outlined in this brochure.

## WHEN SHOULD I USE IN-PLACE SHELTERING?

### CHEMICAL ACCIDENTS CAN BE PREVENTED

*Many people think of chemicals as only those substances used in manufacturing processes. But chemicals are found everywhere - in our kitchens, medicine cabinets, basements and garages. In fact, most chemical accidents occur in our own homes. And they can be prevented.*

Local authorities are responsible for issuing orders for in-place sheltering during chemical or hazardous materials emergencies. You may receive notice directly from police or fire officials, through radio or television broadcasts, community sirens, or by telephone.

As soon as you are notified that an emergency situation exists in your area,

tune to your local Emergency Alert Stations for further information. Primary stations for the Watch Front are:

*KSL-TV Channel 5; KSL-Radio AM 1160; KALL-Radio AM 910.*

Emergency information and steps to be taken will be broadcast continuously. **You will be told:**

- The type of health hazard.
- The area affected.
- How to protect yourself.
- Evacuation routes (if necessary).
- Shelter locations.
- Type and location of medical facilities.
- Phone numbers to call if you need extra help. Do not call the telephone company, and do not call EMS, 9-1-1, or the operator for information. Dial these numbers *only* for a possible life threatening emergency.

## IN-PLACE SHELTERING IN YOUR HOME

In-Place Sheltering simply means staying inside your home, business, or other facility, or seeking shelter in the nearest available building.

During a release of toxic chemicals, or emergencies involving hazardous materials where air quality may be threatened, In-Place Sheltering keeps you inside a protected area and out of danger.

While gathering your family, you can provide a minimal amount of protection to your breathing by covering your mouth and nose with a damp cloth.

**If you are asked to shelter in-place, take the following actions:**

- Bring family members and pets inside.
- Close all windows and lock doors in your home. Close drapes or shades.
- Turn off all fans, heating and air conditioning systems.
- Close the fireplace damper.
- Go to an above ground room (not the basement) with the fewest windows and doors. Take your 72-Hour kit with you.
- Wet some towels and jam them in the crack under the doors. Tape around doors, windows, exhaust fans or vents. Use the plastic garbage bags to cover windows, outlets and heat registers.
- If you are told there is danger of explosion, close the window shades, blinds or curtains. To avoid injury, stay away from the windows.
- Stay in the room and listen to your radio until you are told all is safe or you are told to evacuate by police or fire officials.

If time does not permit you to seal the entire home, close as many internal doors as possible, move to the most central room in the home and seal that room as above. Take as many of these precautions as possible.

## IN-PLACE SHELTERING AT YOUR WORK-PLACE

In addition to the directions listed for your home, you should take the following steps:

- Ensure all ventilation systems are set to 100 percent re-circulation so that no outside air is drawn into the building. If this is not possible, turn off the system.
- Minimize the use of elevators as they tend to "pump" air through a building.
- Remain in place until you receive notice that it is safe to leave.

# Biological Agents

## PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW IN THE EVENT OF POSSIBLE EXPOSURE TO A BIOLOGICAL AGENT (INCLUDING ANTHRAX):

If you open an envelope or package containing a message indicating that you have been exposed to anthrax (a crystalline or powdery substance may not be seen or noticed), do the following:

Remain calm. Leave the room and deny access to others.

Immediately close all doors and windows in the room.

Call 911 and indicate that you have received an anthrax threat. Also let them know if any substance was in the envelope or package and that you possibly have been exposed. (The dispatcher will immediately notify the proper response units). Give the dispatcher your name, telephone number and location. Remain on the line until advised to discontinue your call.

Move away from the envelope of package and any suspected substance but do not leave the room. Notify your supervisor and ask that the entry to your work area be restricted until response teams arrive.

If you have been exposed to a powder or other substance, do not touch your face or attempt to clean up the desk or counter top. If a sink is available in your work areas, wash your hands, arms, and face with soap and water.

Wait for instructions from responders.

If you follow the above procedures and directions of responders your chance of illness is extremely low. There is high probability that this is only a hoax but every precaution will be taken to insure your safety.

# About Biological and Chemical Weapons

Biological agents are infectious microbes or toxins used to produce illness or death in people, animals or plants. Terrorists may use biological agents to contaminate food or water because they are extremely difficult to detect.

Chemical agents kill or incapacitate people, destroy livestock or ravage crops. Some chemical agents are odorless, tasteless and difficult to detect. They can have an immediate effect (a few seconds to a few minutes) or a delayed effect (several hours to several days).

You may be exposed to a chemical or biological agent in three ways:

*You may be sent to a designated hospital for evaluation. Antibiotics may be recommended until laboratory tests are completed (normally 24 to 72 hours).*

*You may be decontaminated at the scene by professionals or given an opportunity to shower. You will be given clean clothing after the shower or decontamination.*

- Breathing the material.
- Swallowing contaminated food, water or medication.
- Touching the material, or coming into contact with clothing or things which have touched the material.

Remember, you could be exposed to chemicals or biological materials even though you may not be able to see or smell anything unusual.