

## How Do I Shelter-In-Place

When you suspect a haz-mat or weapons of mass destruction incident has taken place or if you are directed to shelter-in-place, follow these steps.

1. Go inside immediately and bring pets indoors with you.
2. Close and lock all doors and windows, making sure that they are tightly shut.
3. Shut off all fan devices, ventilation systems, and any system that circulates air.
4. Close the damper to your wood stove or fire place if you have one making sure that you extinguish the fire first.
5. Go to the room that you have selected to shelter-in-place. If possible, this should be a small room with few or no windows and doors. It should be located near the center of the building.
6. Seal this room off quickly using duct tape and plastic sheeting to seal the windows, doors and any type of vents coming into the room, Use wet towels to seal the gaps between the floor and the doors. If necessary use wet wash cloths to cover your nose and mouth. The objective is to keep outside air which may be contaminated from coming into the room.
7. Monitor your battery powered television or radio for emergency messages or instructions.
8. Do not make unnecessary phone calls. Do not call 911 for information.
9. Stay inside your shelter-in-place until you receive the all clear signal. This will be announced on the radio and television.
10. After the all clear signal, open all windows and doors and go outside until the building has been well ventilated.

## Related Reading...

- ★ LEPC "Right to Know"
- ★ Are you ready? A Guide to Citizen Preparedness FEMA (H-341)
- ★ Emergency Preparedness Checklist FEMA (L-154)
- ★ Your Family Disaster Supplies Kit FEMA (L-189)
- ★ Your Family Disaster Plan FEMA (L-191)
- ★ Helping Children Cope With Disaster FEMA (L-196)

## Web Sites

- ★ FEMA \_ [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)
- ★ Environmental Protection Agency \_ [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)
- ★ Institute for Business & Home Safety \_ [www.ibhs.org](http://www.ibhs.org)

*For more information please contact:*

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# Sheltering In Place



# Learn To Protect Yourself

## What is the LEPC?

The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is the organized central agency whose primary responsibility is to develop an emergency response plan that addresses accidents involving haz-mat incidents. The plan maps our transportation and evacuation routes, identifies facilities that store hazardous chemicals, identifies shelters, and compiles other emergency information that can be activated instantly. The LEPC is mandated by state and federal laws and is comprised of membership from both the private and public sectors.



The LEPC's mission is to provide an established coordinated response to protect the public from harmful effects of a haz-mat or weapons of mass destruction incident.

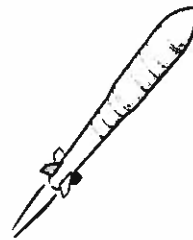
## Who Should Prepare For Disasters?

- ★ Schools
- ★ Businesses
- ★ Organizations
- ★ Private Citizens



## What Are Weapons of Mass Destruction?

Weapons of mass destruction (WMD) is defined as 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 or radiation or radioactivity.



## What Are Hazardous Materials?

Hazardous materials (HAZ-mat) are substances that, because of their chemical nature, pose a potential risk to life, health, or property if they are released. Hazards can exist during production, storage, transportation, use or disposal. Chemical plants are one source of hazardous materials, but there are many others. Your local service station stores gasoline and diesel fuel, hospitals store a range of radioactive and flammable materials, and there are about 30,000 hazardous materials waste sites in the United States.



## What Materials Do I Need To Shelter In Place??

These are the materials that are needed to shelter in place at your home, school or business:

- ★ Plastic sheeting precut to fit the windows, vents, and doors in the room or rooms that you have selected to shelter in place.
- ★ Duct tape to seal the plastic sheeting over the windows, doors and vents in your shelter in place room.
- ★ Bath towels, to wet and place under the doors to seal any gaps between the door bottoms and the floor.
- ★ Battery operated radio with extra batteries.
- ★ Water for drinking and for wetting the towels. About 1 gallon per person.
- ★ Flashlight with extra batteries.
- ★ Nonperishable food or snacks.
- ★ First aid kit.
- ★ Container for storing the materials in your kit.

