SHELTER-IN-PLACE
How to Survive Certain Disasters

Utah
Department of Public Safety
Division of Emergency Management

✓ Make a Plan ✓ Get a Kit ✓ Be Informed ✓ Get Involved
Learn to Survive!

If you don’t survive the disaster, the rest of your plans don’t really matter.
How to Survive

• Protective Actions!
• Steps to take to protect yourself during a threat or hazard
• What are they?
Primary Protective Action

- When you know a danger or threat hazard is coming your way what’s the best thing to do?
- Get out of its way! **Evacuate**!
- Primary protective action for wildfire, floods, hurricanes, tsunamis, **hazardous materials**, etc.

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Other Protective Actions

• FEMA and other emergency agencies recognize two different but similar protective actions:

• Sheltering is simply going inside a solid structure or building; staying home.

• Sheltering-in-Place is specifically for hazardous materials incidents where harmful materials are released into the air.
Sheltering vs Sheltering-In-Place

Sheltering:
- Go indoors
- Protection from tornado, lightning, hail, wind, cold, etc.
- Need many supplies
- Resume normal activity

Sheltering-in-Place:
- Go into single room in your home, sealed
- Protection from hazardous materials
- Need limited supplies, radio
- Ventilate home

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SIP Example

- **Salt Lake City, Utah.** In March 2005, a mixture of approximately 6,500 gallons of phosphoric, sulfuric, acetic, and hydrofluoric acids corroded the inside of a stationary railcar and began leaking, causing an orange vapor cloud in Salt Lake City, Utah (2000 population: 181,743). The corrosion was attributed to improper combination of the acids because of human error. A member of the general public approximately 0.25 mile away experienced respiratory irritation and was treated on the scene. Approximately 8,000 persons downwind from the release were evacuated for 5 hours, and a shelter-in-place order was issued for a five-block area near the evacuation zone. - CDC
Background

• Further developed by the US Army for the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP)
• CSEPP produced a SIP Video
Shelter-in-Place Video

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Shelter-in-Place Steps

1. Go inside
2. Close doors, windows, fireplace damper
3. Turn off HVAC systems
4. Take family into preselected shelter room
5. Seal doors, windows, vents, and other openings with pre-cut and labeled plastic and duct tape
6. Turn on battery-operated, AM/FM radio
7. Leave your shelter room when instructed
SIP

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Shelter-in-Place Preparation

• Pre-select shelter room: above ground, center most room, large enough for family members

• Assemble Shelter-in-Place Kit, include:
  • Pre-cut plastic to cover windows, doors, vents, other openings; label plastic pieces
  • Duct tape, scissors
  • Battery-operated, AM/FM radio
  • Water bottles, granola bars or other food
When to Shelter-in-Place

- When instructed to do so by local law enforcement, fire officials, emergency management or other civil authority
- In response to hazardous materials incidents
- If you’re instructed to evacuate, but cannot
Notification

• Shelter-in-Place order may come through established public warning systems:
  • EAS
  • WEA
  • Sirens

• SIP order may more likely come through:
  • Route Alerting (law enforcement officers or firefighters using PA systems in cars or knocking on doors)
When to End SIP

- SIP requires two main actions: entering shelter and exiting shelter
- Duration: A matter of hours, not days
- As soon as the leak is contained or the spill is cleaned up or the wind changes directions, the SIP order may be lifted
- Listen to your radio (EAS)
- Be prepared to evacuate or ventilate your home
Sheltering

• One of the oldest protective actions
• When early man was faced with hazardous weather he sought shelter
• Protective action for wind, cold, rain, snow, hail, blizzards, tornados, lightning, etc.

**Sheltering** Steps:
1. Simply go indoors
2. In some cases, stay away from windows
3. For tornados, go to basement or lowest point possible

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Are You Ready?

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