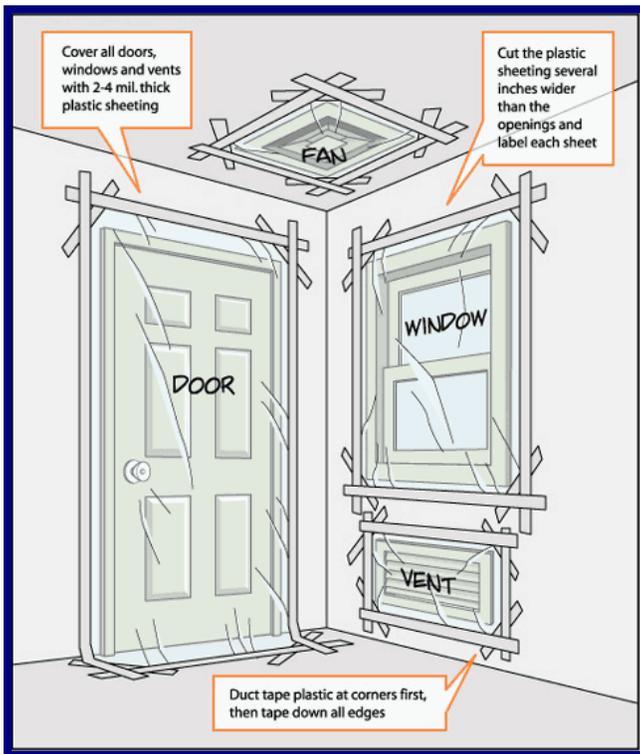


ARE YOU PREPARED FOR AN EMERGENCY?

Each month we suggest something you and your family can do to get ready for an emergency.

THIS MONTH'S CHALLENGE: **SHELTER-IN-PLACE**



If hazardous materials (chemical, biological, or radiological contaminants) are accidentally or intentionally released into the environment, you may be told to shelter-in-place. This is a precaution to keep you safe while remaining indoors. Local authorities will provide information on television and radio stations on how to protect yourself and your family. Follow the instructions of local authorities and know what to do if you are advised to shelter-in-place.

You can shelter-in-place by selecting a small, interior room, with no or few windows, and taking refuge there. It does not mean sealing off your entire home or office building. Cover all doors, windows and vents with 2-4 mil. thick plastic sheeting.

Be prepared for an emergency such as a chemical agent incident or hazardous materials accident near your home. Make your *Shelter-in-Place Kit* now so that you can seal your shelter immediately if local officials instruct you to shelter-in-place. Cut the plastic sheeting several inches wider than the openings and label each sheet. (When installing, duct tape plastic at corners first, and then tape down all edges.)

Things to Do:

- Close and lock all windows and exterior doors.
 - If you are told there is danger of explosion, close window shades, blinds or curtains.
 - Turn off all fans, heating and air conditioning systems. Close the fireplace damper.
 - Get your family disaster supplies kit and make sure the radio is working.
 - Go to an interior room without windows that's above ground level. In the case of a chemical threat, an above-ground location is preferable because some chemicals are heavier than air, and may seep into basements even if the windows are closed.
 - Bring your pets with you, and be sure to bring additional food and water supplies for them.
- It is ideal to have a hard-wired telephone in the room you select. Call your emergency contact and have the phone available if you need to report a life-threatening condition. *Cellular phone equipment may be overwhelmed or damaged during an emergency.*
 - Use duct tape and plastic sheeting (heavier than food wrap) to seal all cracks around the door and any vents into the room.
 - Keep listening to your radio or television until you are told all is safe or you are told to evacuate. Local officials may call for evacuation in specific areas at greatest risk in your community. For this reason, it is important to keep a television or radio on during the daytime.

Shelter-in-place is a short-term protection. It requires you to stay inside a sealed room for no more than a few hours until the outside air is again safe to breathe. Harmful vapors can work their way into a closed building and even a sealed room. Therefore, you must leave your shelter when experts decide the outside air is cleaner than what may be inside. Depending on the situation, you may be told to ventilate the shelter and building, go outside, or leave the area.

More information is available at:

www.ready.gov

www.citizencorps.gov

www.fema.gov

www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/evacuation/shelterinplace.html