

# Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

## SHELTER IN PLACE

### What is Shelter-In-Place?

It is a method used to protect yourself and your family from a release of hazardous materials. Typically, this release will be in a gaseous or vapor form which can easily cover a large area versus a liquid form that will be isolated. This release could be from a static location (e.g. a facility which stores hazardous materials) or from a vehicle or railroad accident.

### Why do you Shelter-In-Place?

You should shelter in place to prevent or reduce your exposure to hazardous materials.

### How will you know to Shelter-In-Place?

Your local emergency management director may direct you to shelter in place by radio/TV, by a reverse 911 call, or possibly by a siren if you are in very close proximity to a facility that has large amounts of hazardous materials.

### How do you Shelter-In-Place?

1. Go inside immediately.
2. Close and lock all doors and windows.
3. Switch off all ventilation systems (a/c, heat, fans).
4. Move to a small room and seal as best you can.
5. Turn on a radio to monitor the situation

### How do you prepare to Shelter-In-Place?

1. Decide where you will shelter.
2. Put together a safety kit containing:
  - a. Plastic sheeting
  - b. Tape
  - c. Radio w/extra batteries
  - d. Flashlight w/extra batteries
  - e. A couple of bottles of water and maybe some snacks. You should be prepared to stay for a couple of hours.

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### How do you seal the room?

1. Close and lock all windows and doors.
2. Tape plastic sheeting over doors and windows.
3. If you don't have plastic sheeting you can use moist towels rolled up and placed along the gaps in the windows and doors.

### What do you do after the all clear is given?

1. Completely open your home and air it out for several hours. Turn on fans to force air out of the home.
2. Check on friends and neighbors.
3. Restock your emergency kit.

### Final Comments

#### Do

1. Have a plan.
2. Make sure that everyone knows what to do.
3. Prepare an emergency kit.

#### Do Not

1. Forget about your pets.
2. Go to the schools until after the all clear is given. Schools have a plan to protect the children.
3. Try to drive out of the area unless told to do so.

**REMEMBER:** If you are on the road during this type of emergency, find a safe location to park. Seek shelter immediately and follow the instructions above. If unable to do so, keep all doors and windows shut and switch off the vehicle's ventilation system. Keep the radio on to receive further instructions.

For more information, please visit the LEPC District 11 website located at:

<http://www.sfrpc.com/lepc/sip.htm>

Note: This document was prepared by Chuck Carter from the Central Florida Regional Planning Council and LEPC District 7 in Bartow, FL with minor edits and formatting by Manny Cela from the South Florida Regional Planning Council and LEPC District 11 in Hollywood, FL. **A Spanish version of this document is also available from the LEPC website listed above.**