

# Shelter in Place – Are You Prepared?

Devastating events such as industrial accidents, motor vehicle accidents, or railroad car derailments can release dangerous chemicals into the air so quickly that there is insufficient time for evacuation. In some cases an evacuation would actually place more people in danger. During such events it is necessary to understand how to “Shelter in Place.”

## What to do if told to “Shelter in Place”

If you are told to “Shelter in Place,” immediately go inside your home (If you are away from your home, go inside the nearest structure) and do the following:

- Do not attempt to get your children from their school or day care center. Trained teachers and caregivers will protect your children by instituting shelter in place procedures. (If you do not know of an emergency plan, share this information with the school or the daycare to assure that they are prepared)
- Close windows and doors. Shut off all air conditioners, window fans or other equipment with air intakes. If you have a fireplace, close the damper. (Put out fire in fireplace prior to closing the damper)
- Protect food and utensils by covering or placing inside the refrigerator.
- Keep water and emergency supplies with you.
- Keep all pets indoors with you.
- Go to an above ground room with few doors and windows. A bathroom or a bedroom with an attached bathroom is a good choice so that you have water and toilet facilities available. Avoid the basement because chemical fumes often settle into low places.
- Seal all doors, windows and vent covers with plastic sheeting and tape if available. Cover cracks under doors with damp towels.
- Keep your TV or radio on and tuned into a local station broadcasting emergency information.
- Do not use the telephone except for an extreme emergency as this will tie up the phone lines needed for emergencies.
- Do not leave your home (or the structure) until you are told it is safe to do so.
- If you are in an automobile roll the windows up, close all vents, turn off the fan, and drive away from the area immediately.



## Shelter in Place Kit

A simple kit can be assembled relatively inexpensively with the following items:

✓ Roll of plastic sheeting	✓ Battery-operated radio, with extra batteries
✓ Blankets or sleeping bags	✓ First-aid supplies
✓ Bottled water	✓ Windup or battery-powered clock
✓ Duct tape	✓ Bath towels to seal door openings
✓ Flashlights, with extra batteries	✓ Sanitary hand wipes
✓ Snack food	✓ Infant care items
✓ Scissors	✓ Other special care items



**Local Emergency Planning Committee**

For more information, go to:  
[www.co.washington.wi.us](http://www.co.washington.wi.us)  
 click on All County Depts.  
 click on Health Department  
 Click on Disaster/Terrorism  
 Preparedness