

Emergency Management FactSheet

HS02-025C (6-09)

In the event of an emergency due to spilled chemicals and/or bio-terroism, local officials may order you to shelter in place rather than evacuating the area. Sometimes staying indoors until the emergency is over can be much safer than going outside where the air may be contaminated and unsafe for breathing.



Steps for Sheltering in Place

- Remain calm and go inside. If your eyes, nose, or throat become irritated, you can add extra protection by covering your mouth and nose with layers of damp cloth and taking frequent shallow breaths.
- Close all windows and doors. Do not use your air conditioner, heater, or fireplace. You may need to use tape to seal cracks or openings around doors and windows to avoid contaminants seeping into the shelter. This will provide you more protection. (Tape is a good item to add to your emergency supply kit.)
- Tune in to your local emergency radio or television station. Local officials will give emergency information through major radio and television stations.
- Use the telephone for emergencies only. Do not use the telephone unless necessary. For emergencies dial 911.

Steps for Evacuation

- Evacuate only if told to do so by local authorities.
- Stay calm and gather essential items (baby supplies, medicine, drivers license, money, etc.).
- Take care of pets before leaving home.
- Keep all windows and air vents in the car closed.
- Use special routes designated by local authorities.

Reminder to Parents....

If you have children in school:

DO NOT go to the school to pick up your children unless you are instructed to do so by school officials. Going to the school may put yourself and your children in danger when doors are opened to allow you to remove your children from their safe shelter.

DO NOT try to call the school. During an emergency, phone lines will be needed for official business. Students will be taken into schools and cared for or evacuated by bus to a safe haven.

The Texas Department of Insurance (TDI),
Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC)
E-mail resourcecenter@tdi.state.tx.us
or call 1-800-687-7080 for more information.

Safety Violations Hotline
1-800-452-9595
safetyhotline@tdi.state.tx.us