

Shelter in Place - Vehicle

Introduction

What does “shelter in place” mean? Shelter-in-place is a precaution aimed to keep you safe while remaining indoors. (This is not the same thing as going to an evacuation centre in case of a storm.) You may be given an instruction to shelter-in-place in an emergency where hazardous materials have been released into the atmosphere. Shelter in place means 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. If you are told to shelter in place, follow the instructions provided in this fact sheet.

Public health significance

Chemical, biological, or radiological contaminants may be released accidentally or intentionally into the environment. Should this occur, information will be provided by local authorities on television and radio stations on how to protect you and your family. Follow instructions of local authorities and know what to do if they advise you to shelter-in-place.

Action to take

If you are driving a vehicle and hear advice to shelter in place on the radio, take these steps:

- If you are very close to home, your office, or a public building, go there immediately and go inside. Follow the shelter-in-place recommendations for the place you pick described above.
- If you are unable to get to a home or building quickly and safely, then pull over to the side of the road. Stop your vehicle in the safest place possible. If it is sunny outside, it is preferable to stop under a bridge or in a shady spot, to avoid being overheated.
- Turn off the engine. Close windows and vents.
- If possible, seal the heating/air conditioning vents with duct tape.
- Listen to the radio regularly for updated advice and instructions.
- Stay where you are until you are told it is safe to get back on the road. Be aware that some roads may be closed or traffic detoured. Follow the directions of law enforcement officials.

Acknowledgement:

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Related links:

- Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ) at website:
www.emergency.qld.gov.au/emq/css/beprepared.asp
- Emergency Management Australia Community Awareness Publications at website:
www.ema.gov.au/www/emaweb/emaweb.nsf/Page/Publications