

School Crisis Planning: The Parent Factor

SHELTERING-IN-PLACE

WHAT YOUR SCHOOL IS DOING

Sheltering-in-place means selecting a small, interior room, with no or few windows, and taking refuge there. Schools have plans in place in the event of a natural or man-made disaster that may prohibit students from leaving the building. The main objective is to move students and staff to designated safe locations that will protect them until the disaster is over. *Below are tips you can use to plan for sheltering-in-place with your family to help teach emergency preparedness at home and school.*

WHAT YOU CAN DO AT HOME

How Should Your Family Shelter-in-Place

The appropriate steps depend on the emergency situation. If you hear a warning signal, listen to local radio or television stations for further information. You will be told what to do, including where to find the nearest shelter if you are away from your "shelter-in-place" location.

Sheltering-in-Place Instructions

- ⓘ Bring children and pets indoors immediately. If your children are at school, do not try to bring them home unless told to. The school will shelter them.
- ⓘ Close and lock all outside doors and windows. Locking may provide a tighter seal.
- ⓘ If you are told there is danger of explosion, close the window shades, blinds, or curtains.
- ⓘ Turn off the heating, ventilation, or air conditioning system. Turn off fans, including bathroom fans operated by the light switch.
- ⓘ Close the fireplace or woodstove damper. Become familiar with proper operation of flues and dampers ahead of time.
- ⓘ Get your disaster supplies kit, and make sure the radio is working.
- ⓘ Take everyone, including pets, into an interior room with no or few windows and shut the door.

Assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit Containing:

- ⓘ First aid kit and essential medications
- ⓘ Battery-powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries
- ⓘ Candles and matches
- ⓘ Canned food and manual can opener
- ⓘ Bottled water
- ⓘ Sturdy shoes and work gloves
- ⓘ Baby formula, diapers, pet food, etc.

Don't Forget Your Family Pets

If you have pets, prepare a place for them to relieve themselves where you are taking shelter. Pets should not go outside during a chemical or radiation emergency because it is harmful to them and they may track contaminants into your shelter. The Humane Society of the United States suggests that you have plenty of plastic bags and newspapers, as well as containers and cleaning supplies, to help deal with pet waste.

While You're Waiting

Keep listening to your radio or television until you are told all is safe or you are told to evacuate. Do not evacuate unless instructed to do so. When you are told that the emergency is over, open windows and doors, turn on ventilation systems, and go outside until your home's air has been exchanged with the new clean outdoor air. Follow any special instructions given by emergency authorities.

Actions for Your Family

- ⓘ Post emergency telephone numbers by phones.
- ⓘ Install safety features in your house, such as smoke detectors and fire extinguishers.
- ⓘ Teach children how and when to call 911.
- ⓘ Learn basic safety measures, such as CPR and first aid.
- ⓘ Keep enough supplies in your home to meet your family needs for at least (3) days.
- ⓘ Keep an emergency supply kit in the trunk of your car.

Additional Resources Can Be Found At:

American Red Cross: www.redcross.org

FEMA: www.fema.gov

Do 1 Thing: www.do1thing.org