



SHELTERING IN PLACE

What is SHELTERING IN PLACE?

“Sheltering in place” is an official recommendation to stay at a current location. During emergencies, emergency response leaders may use this phrase to direct people to take refuge at their current location until further notice. Sheltering in place protects people during severe weather, other emergencies, acts of war, or when travel is dangerous. It is also used during disease outbreaks, chemical accidents, and radiation emergencies threatening public health.

How will you learn about ‘sheltering in place’ directions?

Turn on your radio and television and watch the news during any emergency. Listen carefully to instructions provided by the Delaware Emergency Management Agency, the Division of Public Health, or other emergency responders.

If they instruct people to “shelter in place,” stay where you are or get to an indoor place. Once inside, find a centrally located room or basement with as few windows as possible. Take your radio or television with you.

Locate flashlights and batteries, and your disaster supplies kit. Bring in pets. Close and lock all windows and exterior doors. During chemical leaks, turn off fans, heating and air conditioning systems, and fireplace dampers.

How long do people have to ‘shelter in place’?

Depending on the type of emergency, this period can be as little as a few hours or as long as many hours or days. Remain inside and sheltered until emergency response leaders announce through the media that it is safe to leave. Listen to radio, car radio, or television news reports for such alerts.

What can I do now to prepare for emergencies at home and at work?

Establish a disaster supplies kit. Use a plastic see-through box with a lid, or a few leftover backpacks and keep your kit on a high shelf in the garage, basement, or closet. Be sure it is not too heavy to lift, and not blocked by other items.

Emergency Medical Services and Preparedness Section
24/7 Emergency Contact Number: 1-888-295-5156
Contact Number: 302-223-2999

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