



## 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 (DEMA), Delaware's Division of Public Health (DPH), 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.

Pack the kit with these supplies:

- Food with a long shelf life – Canned, dried and packaged food products. Store enough food for each member of the household for at least two weeks.

**24/7 Emergency Contact Number: 1-888-295-5156**

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## Public Information

- Water – Purchase and store bottled water, or store water from the tap in clean containers. Each person in the household needs about one gallon per day. Store enough water for at least two weeks.
- A change of clothes and shoes – Include underwear, socks, sturdy shoes or work boots, and winter or summer clothes as needed.
- Other items – battery-operated radio and batteries, flashlight and batteries, hand-operated can opener, first aid kit, toiletries, paper plates, paper towels and plastic utensils, plastic bags, bedding, essential medicines, extra eyeglasses or contact lenses, cash, telephone or cell phone, cleaning supplies and hand sanitizers, duct tape and heavy plastic sheeting, pet food, baby food, games and books.

### For more information:

Visit the CDC website for Emergency Preparedness and Response: [www.bt.cdc.gov/](http://www.bt.cdc.gov/) or the Delaware Emergency Management Agency website: [www.state.de.us/dema](http://www.state.de.us/dema). Or, call the county emergency operations centers: (302) 573-2855 in New Castle County, (302) 735-3465 in Kent County, and (302) 855-7801 in Sussex County.