

Homeland Security

TERRORISM...How to Prepare

Unlike a natural disaster, there will likely be NO WARNING for a terrorism attack. A [Family Emergency Plan](#) is critical and should be in place at all times. Your family's plan should include emergency contacts and an [Emergency Supply Kit](#).

BEFORE an incident:

- Be alert and aware of your surroundings
- Take precautions when traveling and watch for conspicuous or unusual behavior. Do not accept packages from strangers. Do not leave luggage unattended
- Learn where emergency exits are located
- Be ready to enact your Family Emergency Plan

DURING...

- A Building Explosion - Leave as quickly as possible
- If items are falling from above, get under a sturdy table or desk
- Fire - stay as low to the floor as possible. Cover nose and mouth with a wet cloth. If door is hot to the touch, do not open it - seek an alternate escape route. Stay below the smoke at all times

AFTER...

- If you are trapped in debris - use a flashlight. Cover your mouth with a piece of cloth. Tap on a pipe or wall so that rescuers can hear where you are. Use a whistle if one is available, and shout as a last resort (you can inhale dangerous amounts of dust)
- Assisting Victims - untrained persons should not attempt to rescue people in a collapsed building. Wait for emergency personnel to arrive
- Chemical Agent - authorities will instruct you to either seek shelter and seal the premises or evacuate immediately

How to Shelter-In-Place or Evacuate in the Event of an Emergency

If you are told to Shelter-In-Place in a chemical emergency or other emergency:

- Go inside a building. Go to an above ground room, not the basement, with the fewest windows and doors
- Take your Family's Emergency Supplies Kit with you.
- Listen to TV or radio for information
- (For minimal protection while you are gathering your family and securing your home), cover mouth and nose with a damp cloth
- Close all doors and windows.
- Jam the cracks with wet towels.
- Tape around doors, windows, exhaust fans or vents.
- Use plastic garbage bags to cover the windows, outlets, and heat registers

- TURN OFF air conditioners, heaters, and fans
- DO NOT use fire places.
- Extinguish the fire. Close the damper.
- DO NOT go to schools to pick up children.
- Children will be cared for by school personnel.
- STAY in the room and listen to your radio until you are told all is safe or you are told to evacuate

Keep and maintain a Shelter-In-Place Kit:

- Bath/Hand Towels
- Duct Tape
- Flashlight
- Radio with Fresh Batteries
- Non-Perishable Foods
- Bottled Water
- First Aid Kit with Scissors
- Plastic Garbage Bag
- Prescribed medicines or a list of them

If you are told there is danger of an Explosion:

- Close the window shades, blinds, or curtains
- To avoid injury, stay away from the windows

If you are told to Evacuate in a chemical emergency:

- Gather a change of clothing
- Baby/dietary needs and medicines (Family's Emergency Supply Kit)
- Don't turn off your refrigerator, but do turn off all other appliances and lights before locking your home as you leave
- Take one car to the evacuation site
- Keep car windows closed and locked when traveling
- Shut off all vents
- DO NOT use the car air conditioner or heater
- Lock the car doors
- DO NOT go to schools to pick up children
- Children will be cared for by school personnel
- DO NOT take short cuts, because they could put you in the path of danger - take the route you are told to take

Evacuate quickly, follow instructions from local emergency management and/or community officials and stay calm.