



## A different kind of emergency

Most of us know to go to the basement when there's a tornado, and to get out quickly in case of fire. But would you know what to do if a dangerous chemical is released or spilled in your neighborhood?

Hazardous chemicals are all around us. They are used in factories and on farms, and are transported on our highways and rail lines. They can be solids, liquids or gases. While some can be seen and smelled, others may be invisible or odor free.

If a hazardous chemical is spilled or released into the air — either accidentally or with criminal intent — you may need to take protective actions until the spill is cleaned up or the gas cloud blows away.

**Be prepared to protect yourself and your family.  
Learn how to shelter in place.**

## Different emergencies, Different responses

**TORNADO  
GET DOWN**



**FIRE  
GET OUT**



**CHEMICAL  
SEAL UP**



For more information, visit  
[www.preparemetrokc.org](http://www.preparemetrokc.org)

KNOW WHEN AND HOW TO

# Shelter in Place



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Make a supply kit. Have a plan. Stay informed.

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# Know when to shelter in place

In situations that require sheltering in place, you will be notified by the authorities in your community. You may hear an explosion, see a smoke or vapor cloud, or notice an unusual smell.

Listen to local TV and radio news broadcasts, or your NOAA all-hazards weather radio for instructions. If you are told to shelter in place, take action immediately.

## Action Steps:

- 1** Go inside.
- 2** Close and lock all doors and windows.
- 3** Shut off any heating or cooling systems and close fireplace dampers.
- 4** Gather people and pets in your shelter room and seal windows, doors and vents.
- 5** Keep listening to radio or TV for an "all clear" or further instructions.

## Choose the right room

Before an emergency happens, think about which room in your house would provide the best shelter.

An upper level room is best, because some gases and chemicals are heavier than air, and they sink to lower levels.

Choose an area that you can seal off easily, preferably one with access to telephone, water and a toilet. An upstairs bedroom with an adjoining bathroom would be ideal.



## Be aware and be prepared

Sheltering in place is important in very specific types of emergencies. Is your family ready for other kinds of disasters? Learn more about preparedness, make a family plan and get a list of supplies you should keep on hand at [www.preparemetrokc.org](http://www.preparemetrokc.org).



## Seal it up

Once inside your shelter room, take steps to keep dangerous chemicals out:

- Dampen towels and place in front of the crack under the door.
- Cut plastic sheeting to fit over windows and vents. Secure the plastic sheeting with duct tape.
- Tape around the door.
- Listen to radio or TV for instructions. Don't open up or leave your sealed shelter until you are told to do so.

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