



■ Sheltering in place

Taking shelter is critical in times of disaster. Sheltering is appropriate when conditions require that you seek protection in your home, place of employment, or other location where you are when disaster strikes.

To effectively shelter, you must first consider the hazard and then choose a place in your home or other building that is safe for that hazard. For example, for a tornado, a room should be selected that is in a basement or an interior room on the lowest level away from corners, windows, doors and outside walls. Because the safest locations to seek shelter vary by hazard, sheltering is discussed in the various hazard sections. These discussions include recommendations for sealing the shelter if the hazard warrants this type of protection.

The length of time you are required to shelter may be short, such as during a tornado warning, or long, such as during a winter storm. It is important that you stay in your shelter until local authorities say it is safe to leave. Additionally, you should take turns listening to radio broadcasts and maintain a 24-hour safety watch.

During extended periods of sheltering, you will need to manage water and food supplies to ensure you and your family have the required supplies and quantities.

In order to shelter in place, you should put together an emergency kit that includes:

- duct tape or blue masking tape
- plastic (preferably, pre-cut to size)
- All hazards radio or a battery-operated AM/FM radio
- flashlight with fresh batteries
- bottled water
- towels
- toys for young children;
- candles
- matches
- first-aid kit
- medicine and other items essential for your family's survival

Check the kit every six months to make sure all the supplies are still there and that they are fresh.