



# Sheltering in Place

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## Emergency Preparedness—Month 8 CREATING A “SAFE ROOM” IN YOUR HOME



### **WHY**

Your house provides a good first-layer barrier against chemical airborne agents. Additional protection is achieved by tightly sealing one room of your home that you have pre-designated and prepared.

### **WHAT**

A safe room is one that easily and quickly can be sealed to protect you from airborne agents, and that has a few supplies to get you through the hours that you will need to stay inside it. All doors and windows of that room will be sealed with plastic sheeting and tape, and dampened towels or cloths will be placed under the doors. You will probably need to stay inside several hours, but not several days. So, choose a room that can accommodate your needs for several hours. A master bedroom with an attached bathroom is ideal to give you access to the toilet and running water.

### **PREPARING A SAFE ROOM**

- Choose one room of your home that you can tightly seal.
- Purchase plastic sheeting and cloth tape or duct tape.
- Pre-cut the plastic to fit all windows, vents, and doors of this room, and label each piece.
- Create a box or container to hold the pre-cut plastic, tape, and these additional supplies:
  - ⇒ A battery powered AM/FM radio (power may be out)
  - ⇒ Extra batteries
  - ⇒ Snack foods
  - ⇒ Water
  - ⇒ Towels and blankets

*\* Store this box in your safe room.*

### **GENERALLY**

- Shelter where you are unless directed otherwise by response officials.
- It is only natural to want to be with your loved ones, but it is safer to stay where you are. Do not attempt to get your children from school or day care.
- Typically, events of this type do not last long. The hazardous agents are moved about by air and wind, which is constantly circulating.
- In extreme cases of contamination, breathing through a wet cloth provides additional protection.

### **IF IN YOUR CAR**

- Tightly roll up all windows.
- Shut off the motor to avoid drawing outside air in through the engine.
- Turn off all heating and cooling and close all vents.
- Breathe through a dampened cloth.
- Turn on the radio and listen for instructions.

### **EMERGENCY CONTACT INFO.**

Animal Control	577-1766
El Dorado County Sherriff	573-3000
Lake Valley Fire Department	577-3737
LTCC	541-4660
LTUSD	541-2850
Search & Rescue	573-3007
SLT Fire Department	542-6160
SLT Police Department	542-6100

# Shelter-in-Place Instructions

## 1. Go inside immediately.

- Remember your pets.

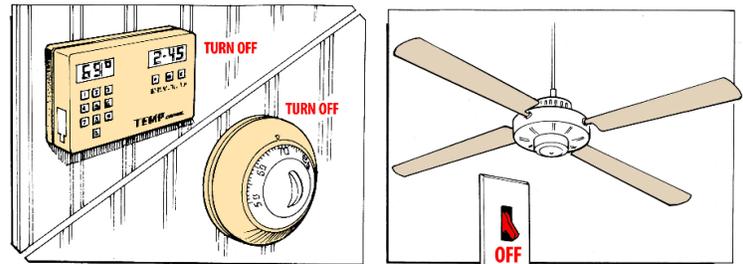
## 2. Tightly lock all doors & windows.

- The more immediately you do this—and the more tightly—the less likely it will be that contaminants will get inside.



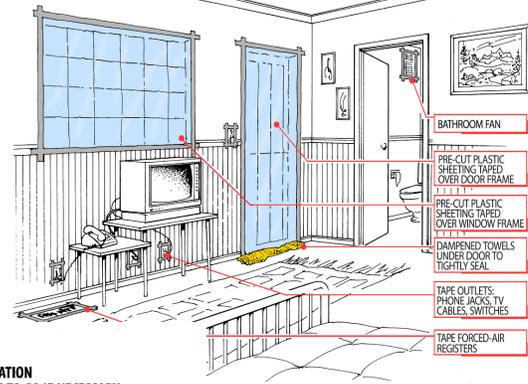
## 3. Shut off fans & devices that circulate air throughout your home.

- Shut off fans.
- Adjust the thermostat of furnaces & air conditioners to shut off and stay off.
- Tightly close woodstove & fireplace dampers.
- If a fire is lit, put it out, close the damper, shut the vents and doors.



## 4. Go into your pre-selected room & seal it tightly.

- Tape plastic sheeting over windows, doors, vents, bathroom fans, electrical outlets, phone jacks, and TV & cable outlets. Remember—you are creating a tightly sealed room, so freely use the tape.
- Place dampened towels under door cracks to seal them.



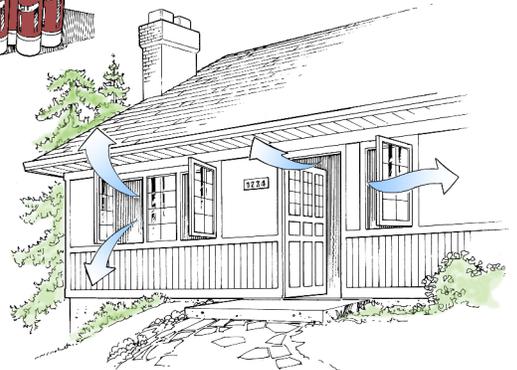
## 5. Listen to the radio for instructions.

- Officials will be giving instructions about whether or not to evacuate and when it is safe to come out.



## 6. Thoroughly air out your home once the emergency is over.

- Open all your doors and windows. This will allow small particles that may have gotten in to dissipate.



### City of South Lake Tahoe Emergency Preparation

As part of the City's initiative to increase communications, we are offering a 12 part monthly series highlighting emergency preparedness. Use these tools to prepare yourself for an emergency event. [www.cityofslt.us/emergency](http://www.cityofslt.us/emergency)